

JPRS-EER-87-119

3 AUGUST 1987



**FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE**

JPRS Report

East Europe

3 AUGUST 1987

EAST EUROPE

CONTENTS

POLITICAL

POLAND

Noted Sociologist Observes American Socio-Political Scene (Jerzy Wiatr Interview; ZYCIE WARSZAWY, 1 Apr 87)	1
Krakow Soviet Consul Briefs Border Troops (GAZETA KRAKOWSKA, 9 Apr 87)	4
Justice Ministry Official on Penal System, Changes (Stanislaw Jablonski Interview; RZECZPOSPOLITA, 20 Feb 87)	5
Sejm Activity Deemed Important in Socialist Democracy (Jadwiga Mikolajczyk; TRYBUNA LUDU, 23 Mar 87)	8
Media Treatment of Sejm Activities Noted (Liliana Czaplewska; TRYBUNA LUDU, 26 Mar 87)	11
Press Council Reviews Three-Year Press Law (ZYCIE WARSZAWY, 3 Apr 87)	13
Bloc Media Seminar on 'Ideology Battle' (TRYBUNA LUDU, 2 Mar 87)	15
Political Nature of Academic Staff Reviews Questioned (Lena Kaletowa; GAZETA ROBOTNICZA, 11 Feb 87)	16

Efficient Job Placement for Graduates Discussed (Andrzej Skrzypczak; TRYBUNA LUDU, 4 Mar 87)	22
National Youth/School Councils Find Political Favor (Włodzimierz Syzdek; ZYCIE WARSZAWY, 7 Apr 87)	24
Youth Groups Note Contacts in Bloc, West, Third World (Grazyna Janus; TRYBUNA OPOLSKA, 3 Apr 87)	28
Higher Education Personnel, Recruitment Issues Noted (Various sources, various dates)	31
Institutions' Recruitment Attempts	31
Admission Changes Spur Anxious Questions	32
Academic Staff Review Results	34
Rector Election Results Posted	35
Warsaw University Rector Elected	35
'Youth Participation' Law Implementation Reviewed (RZECZPOSPOLITA, 16 Apr 87)	36
Scouting Union Issues 'Environmental Alert' (TRYBUNA LUDU, 23 Apr 87)	38
Scouts' Environmental Alert Project Evaluated (TRYBUNA LUDU, 27 Apr 87)	39
Videos Spur Legal Discussions, Club Formations (Franciszek Skwierawski; PERSPEKTYWY, No 16, 17 Apr 87)	41
Briefs	
Soviet TV Show on Chernobyl	43
Public Prosecutors Meeting	43
Vietnam Media Cooperation	43
Higher Education Delegation in China	44
ROMANIA	
Creative Application of Scientific Socialism (Petru Panzaru; ERA SOCIALISTA, No 7, 10 Apr 87)	45

ECONOMIC

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Slusovice Developed Corn Advantages Discussed (Frantisek Trnka, Frantisek Manasek; EKONOMIKA POLNOHOSPODARSTVA, No 4, 1987)	56
Price Restructuring Should 'Accurately Reflect' Actual Values (Rudolf Filkus, Marian Nemec; HOSPODARSKE NOVINY, No 18, 1987)	63

HUNGARY

- Coop Savings Banks To Compete With Central Bank in Budapest
(Janos Cseh; NEPSZAVA, 2 Apr 87) 68

POLAND

- Wozniak Outlines 'Second Stage' Reform Imperatives
(Marian Wozniak; NOWE DROGI, No 2, Feb 87) 71

- Shipping Company Head Optimistic About Stock Sales
(Ryszard Harger Interview; EXPRESS WIECZORNY, 9 Apr 87) 87

- 'PEWEX' Head Plans Currency Exchange at Black Market Prices
(Marek Pietkiewicz Interview; EXPRESS WIECZORNY, 24-
26 Apr 87) 90

Briefs

- Soviet Specialists at 'Iglopol' 95
Japanese Equipment To Produce Resistors 95

YUGOSLAVIA

- Black Market in Foreign Currency Examined
(Salih Zvizdic; VJESNIK, 1 Mar 87) 97

SOCIAL

HUNGARY

- Alcohol Consumption, On-the-Job Drunkenness Down in 1987
(Rezso Banyasz Interview; NEPSZAVA, 10 Apr 87) 103

POLAND

- Sociologist Views 'Society vs Authorities' Problem
(Wladyslaw Markiewicz Interview; KULTURA PZPR, No 3,
21 Jan 87) 105

- Regional Mental Health Center Studies Suicide Rates
(Elzbieta Kolano; NOWINY, 14-15 Mar 87) 110

- Joint Prosecutor, 'Monar' Action Against Drugs
(GAZETA WSPOLCZESNA, 5 Mar 87) 113

- High Rural Birth Rate, Changing Rural Attitudes Examined
(Barbara Tryfan; POLITYKA, No 17, 25 Apr 87) 115

- Pre-School, Special Childrens' Homes Numbered
(ZYCIE GOSPODARCZE, No 15, 12 Apr 87) 119

NOTED SOCIOLOGIST OBSERVES AMERICAN SOCIO-POLITICAL SCENE

Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 1 Apr 87 p 5

[Interview with University of Warsaw sociology professor Jerzy Wiatr, by Ewa Boniecka: "The New Climate of America"]

[Text] [Question]: Professor Wiatr, you recently returned from a trip around the United States, during which you visited a number of the most famous universities, gave lectures, and met with sociologists and political scientists. The intellectual community is an important element that shapes political attitudes and is also a barometer of current trends. Therefore: Is the wave of conservatism still dominant in America?

[Answer]: I think that now the wave of conservatism is clearly declining compared to what we observed at the beginning of the 1980's. You can see this mainly in the approach to internal socioeconomic problems, where the initial enthusiasm for a conservative policy called Reaganomics is largely a thing of the past, because the positive effects of this policy have proved to be far less lasting than had been imagined and the negative ones far stronger.

To somewhat oversimplify things, Reaganomics is based on the assumption that if conditions are created to enrich the most prosperous levels, then everyone will benefit, but reality has turned out to be different. A high level of unemployment has remained, along with great areas of poverty, particularly, although not exclusively, among the ethnic minorities. The restrictions on social services are bringing about dissatisfaction. In the sphere of customs and manners, the moral-religious offensive of conservatism has brought about a boomerang effect, although at the same time you can see loud campaigns, for example, concerning abortion rights, demands for introducing mandatory prayer in the schools, and so on, but the liberal groups are not "frightened." They take the offensive and defend their own point of view.

As for political matters, the breakdown of President Reagan's moral authority in connection with Irangate has called into question the extreme right's ability to maintain control over the Republican Party and at the same time the Republicans' ability to win the election in 1988. Although it is difficult to predict who will be elected next to the office of President, one thing seems certain: It will not be any of the representatives of the conservative wing of the Republic Party, and it probably will not be a Republican at all.

[Question]: As a sociologist, how would you explain the causes, including the psychological ones, for this change in attitudes in the United States?

[Answer]: I think that there are two factors operating here. The first is the tendency long observed for American society to have swings of attitude to probably a greater extent than other societies. The mass media accelerate the ebbs and flows of this wave. Added to this are the false hopes with regard to Ronald Reagan.

[Question]: In your opinion, what is the Americans' approach to East-West relations, the problem of disarmament, and foreign policy in general?

[Answer]: The average American does not know much about international affairs and is not very interested. Simplified stereotypes still predominate and are bolstered by such propaganda as the presentation of the television series "Amerika." On the other hand, in intellectual circles the desire is expressed for the United States to meet the Soviet peace initiatives formulated by Mikhail Gorbachov half way. These proposals and the person of the general secretary of the CPSU fascinate a substantial proportion of the intellectual community. I heard one of the older, more prominent American Sovietologists express the opinion that history would not forgive politicians for wasting the opportunity that presently exists for detente.

[Question]: What sort of influence does this intellectual establishment have on the actions of politicians?

[Answer]: That is a difficult question. In the first place, this establishment is not homogeneous. The more conservative intellectuals have a direct influence on the government, but realists in the academic community have more influence on public opinion than they did a couple of years back. This is the new wave I was talking about.

[Question]: One hears a great deal about what is called the new intellectual geography of America, about the traditional elite of counsellors from the East Coast being replaced by new groups.

[Answer]: I think that this have been somewhat oversimplified. It is true that the economic and geographic center of gravity in the United States has shifted from the East to the West and the South, but matters are very complicated in intellectual life. I know the great California universities relatively well, and I do not have the impression that they are explicitly conservative. Besides, you have to remember that the East Coast will still be the largest concentration of academic strength. The standards and authorities having an impact on the whole country's intellectual life are shaped there. Conservative scholars operate both there and in California, but today they are not the ones setting the tone.

[Question]: During the past 6 years of the bad state of Polish-American relations and the wave of anticommunism in the scholarly community, cooperation in the academic communities has been severely impaired.

[Answer]: I am in the United States frequently. I have also been there a couple of times during the period when relations between the two sides hit their lowest point since 1956. First, the decisions of the administration in Washington directed against vital Polish interests also struck a painful blow to scientific contacts.

Second, in many university communities, there has been an activation of aggressive anticommunist groups set on making scientific cooperation with Polish institutions and with scholars supporting the policy of the Polish government impossible, but we must remember that at the same time, on many university campuses, there have also been people active who came out in favor of scientific cooperation with Poland, despite the fact that this exposed them to political accusations. I will give you a personal example. In 1982 at a conference in Honolulu establishing an international archive for research on local government, I was unanimously entrusted with the duties of chairman of the coordinating committee. This was all the more significant in that, owing to my political position, I was the target of numerous attacks from right-wing circles in the United States, but my example was not unique.

There is no doubt, however, that a new situation is now arising in the realm of mutual scientific cooperation. The removal of restrictions and the progressive normalization of Polish-American relations is making it easier to build up scholarly contacts. This is made easier by the interest in our country and the beneficial evolution of internal relations in Poland. It would be naive to say that all our troubles have disappeared, but we would also be blind not to notice the positive changes in the United States. This makes it all the more important to make careful use of existing contacts and to build new ones. We have many bilateral meetings on various levels, and the effectiveness of using them will depend on how we prepare for them. The role of the intellectual community in both countries is important, and whatever they create that is constructive will have an impact on the favorable evolution of relations.

10790
CSO:2600/631

KRAKOW SOVIET CONSUL BRIEFS BORDER TROOPS

Krakow GAZETA KRAKOWSKA in Polish 9 Apr 87 pp 1,5

[Article by (ss): "USSR Consul General in Krakow Pyotr Sardachuk Visits the Carpathian Brigade of the Border Troops"]

[Text] (Own information) Yesterday the Plenipotentiary Minister and Consul General of the USSR in Krakow Pyotr D. Sardachuk was the guest of commissioned and enlisted personnel of the Carpathian Brigade of the Border Troops stationed in Nowy Sacz. During a meeting with the unit's officers he described the changes currently taking place in the Soviet Union: in its foreign and domestic policies, in its economy, and, above all, in the awareness of its citizens. He also discussed measures to promote peace, build international trust, and halt the arms race. He devoted much attention to aspects of cultural development. He shed interesting light on problems of cooperation among the countries of the socialist community.

Together with the command personnel of the Carpathian Brigade of the Border Troops, the USSR Consul General in Krakow Pyotr Sardachuk toured the subunit commanded by Captain Slawomir Zyczkowski, familiarizing himself with the conditions of the service and training exercises of the personnel of that subunit. The Soviet guest also listened to a concert exercise of the representative orchestra of the Border Troops which was just then practicing in preparation for the special festival, traditionally held each April, "Nowy Sacz Days of Polish-Soviet Friendship," to be held within a few days,

At the House of the Serviceman in Nowy Sacz the representative of the Land of the Soviets toured the Museum of Traditions of the Carpathian Brigade of the Border Troops. There, the unit's commander Colonel Tadeusz Kulej gave Pyotr Sardachuk a Goral's [Tatra mountaineer's] hat with an eagle's feather, worn by the troops of this unit as a symbol distinguishing them from those serving in other troop formations.

1386
CSO:2600/579

JUSTICE MINISTRY OFFICIAL ON PENAL SYSTEM, CHANGES

Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 20 Feb 87 p 3

[Interview with General Stanislaw Jablonski, director general, Ministry of Justice, by Jolanta Woloszanska: "What Is Behind This Wall?"]

[Text] [Question] Much has been said lately about the prison system in Sejm commissions, the press and within the Ministry of Justice itself. A commission set up to prepare new regulations on imprisonment is finishing its work. The Supreme Chamber of Control [NIK] also recently finished an investigation of penal institutions. Is the renewed interest in our prisons the result of the fact that conditions there are so bad?

[Answer] I think that people are simply gaining a greater appreciation of the importance of resocializing criminals in protecting society and fighting crime. I do not mean that everything in our prisons is ideal. There are many problems connected with crowding, a shortage of prison personnel and especially doctors, teachers and psychologists in some regions, poor sanitary conditions in some of the old prisons, inefficient supervision by some prison directors and difficulties in cooperating with some enterprises that employ prisoners.

These were the conclusions reached by an NIK investigation from August to November 1986. The same conclusions were also reached by the Central Directorate of Prisons. These problems will be consistently eliminated through organizational actions and greater internal and external control. However, one cannot fail to see some sign of changes in our prisons.

[Question] What sort of changes?

[Answer] Penal establishments are being systematically repaired and modernized. Realization of the provisions of the 17 July 1986 law on special proceedings on the perpetrators of certain crimes has reduced the prison population by about 16,000 persons. Last year, we also liquidated the unemployment of prisoners by reducing the shortage of jobs. At the end of December 1986, only 4.3 percent of prisoners were not working.

We have been systematically modernizing the prison system's medical facilities. The prison system now has 14 hospitals with a total of 1600 beds.

About 7000 prisoners were treated last year in 6 alcohol detoxification centers and 65 alcoholism treatment clinics. The prison hospitals opened 10 detoxification centers for drug addicts and persons addicted to intoxicants.

[Question] I think that the center of gravity should be sought elsewhere. I am referring to the methods of resocializing prisoners and therefore the quality of prison personnel. The high degree of recidivism (about 40 percent) does not attest well to the quality of educational work in our prisons.

[Answer] I will answer that with a question: is recidivism solely the result of a bad prison system? The process of demoralization and human ruination often starts in early childhood with a bad family environment and the influence of peer groups, etc. This process can last for years. I must also differ with you on the percentage of recidivism. Out of all persons convicted by our courts, only about 10 percent return to crime. Out of the entire prison population, this figure is much higher and can even reach 48 percent. Please consider too that, as studies have shown, more than 36 percent of the prison population consists of persons with various psychological problems, alcoholics, the chronically unemployed and the profoundly demoralized.

Resocialization consists of disciplining prisoners in the proper penal facilities and in providing them with instruction and employment. Every year, about 12,000-15,000 prisoners receive an education in 56 primary vocational schools, 22 secondary vocational study programs, two mechanical technical schools, 36 primary schools and in more than 200 vocational courses. Educational activity consists of various discussions and lectures, meetings with interesting people, complete access to the press, radio and books, showing of films, viewing of interesting television programs and day-room activities, etc.

Not all of these activities by the Prison Service bring the expected results because there does exist a criminal subculture among some inmates. Scientific studies have shown that this subculture is one of the prime causes of recidivism. The negative aspects of prison life have constantly been the subject of a great deal of attention. Recently, in November 1986, there was a scientific symposium dedicated to this problem and the results of that symposium are being applied to practice.

A frequent change of penal policy also hurts effective resocialization.

Finally, I want to say that even the best resocialization work can be nullified when an inmate released from prison finds himself in a social vacuum without a place to live, work or a family. Postpenitentiary assistance does not always come in time.

[Question] Postpenitentiary assistance or rather the lack of it is a great topic. Its importance was stressed by Sejm deputies at the January meeting of the Sejm Commission on Government, Internal Affairs and Justice. However, it was also said that the system of postpenitentiary assistance cannot overindulge former inmates. For example, any material assistance should be based on what the former inmates do for themselves.

[Answer] I agree with that. The postpenitentiary assistance system needs constant improvement as well as new legal regulations. The prison system provides such aid in the form of money and objects to persons who have been under investigative detention and in prisons. For us, it is most important to create a guarantee of good cooperation between the administration of penal establishments and the bureaus and institutions that are supposed to provide this post-imprisonment aid. We often see excessive bureaucracy and even reluctance to become involved with the problems of people leaving prisons.

[Question] Everyone of us with a vocation is subject to professional distortions. As time passes, prison officials unquestionably develop some traits of dominance over prisoners and there is a danger of that getting out of hand. Has the Central Directorate of Prisons noticed that?

[Answer] Your question includes two immeasurably important problems: the qualifications and competence of prison officials and the negative effects of routine and abuse of powers. The basis is the selection of the right personnel for the Prison Service. We unceasingly place great requirements on the personnel we hire. For example, more than 62 percent of the Prison Service's officers have a higher education and 100 percent of the warrant officers and nearly half of the noncommissioned officers have secondary educations. In the 1986-87 school year 514 officials were studying in higher schools and 1570 of them attended secondary schools while 1385 of these attended our own vocational school, the Penitentiary Secondary School which offers vocational training and specialized courses.

Even though it is a rare thing, an incorrect attitude of officials toward their prisoners is sharply condemned by us and an offender can be removed from the service or even be subject to criminal responsibility. In 1986, 155 prison officials were removed from their jobs for violations of discipline and even incorrect moral attitudes.

[Question] To what degree has our penitentiary system reflected the trend among many nations including some socialist countries away from strict isolation and toward semi-open establishments?

[Answer] That has already been our practice for a long time now. Poland has 20 work centers and 62 outside branches to which are sentenced persons guilty of less serious crimes and these are our so-called semi-open establishments.

Our positive experiences with these facilities so far show that we can make greater use of such forms of limited imprisonment. I think that our success is a good argument for making wider use of nonisolational forms of criminal punishment. The resocialization process can also be improved by proposals to update many of the provisions of the penal executive code and therefore by changes to executive regulations including those on temporary arrest and imprisonment. The proposed changes are above all aimed at further improving the individualization of inmate educational work.

12261

CSO: 2600/573

SEJM ACTIVITY DEEMED IMPORTANT IN SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY

Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 23 Mar 87 p 3

[Article by Jadwiga Mikolajczyk: "The Position of the Sejm and the Mechanisms of Its Action"]

[Text] The Sejm has recently demonstrated its consistent interest in the quality of its actions. As many as four of the eight topics discussed at its last session concerned the operating procedures of the Sejm and of the institutions of intra-Sejm democracy created by the Sejm.

The first topic was the Sejm's control powers.

By commissioning the Supreme Chamber of Control to draft a report on the implementation of selected Sejm resolutions, the Ninth Sejm provided yet another proof that it intends to treat Parliamentary control much more seriously.

As we found by listening to the speech by Tadeusz Hupalowiski, the Supreme Chamber of Control selected by way of an illustration several issues of special social and economic importance (among others, the fuel and energy industry, construction, and housing) which at the same are issues to which the Sejm has particularly committed itself.

The assessment of the implementation of the decrees, resolutions, and programs bearing the stamp of the Sejm has been critical. Tardiness in enforcing decisions, slow introduction of implementing regulations, lackadaisical approach, postponement of programs until their own "automatic self-realization" as it were, and the absence of supervision and internal monitoring — such is the list of sins often committed when it comes to implementation, drafted on the basis of the report of the Supreme Chamber of Control by Deputy Andrzej Szpringer in behalf of the PZPR Caucus of Sejm Deputies.

The Sejm will not and should not reconcile itself to such an "implementation" of its resolutions. Its decisions, often adopted following lengthy discussion, are meeting with social approbation, which it has long been courting. Their enforcement is decisive to its credibility.

The Sejm has created instruments for acting on the matters discussed in the report of the Supreme Chamber of Control, as well as on many other matters. It should now require urgently the refinement of auxiliary mechanisms promoting the implementation of its resolutions. The addressee in this case is the government and the administration at all levels, which however has to gain the support of public organizations, self-government organizations, trade unions, and working people.

Given the manner in which the Chamber of Deputies reacted to the report, it can be concluded that additional reports will be requested of the Supreme Chamber of Control by Wiejska [Wiejska Street, the seat of the Sejm].

The second topic, linked to the mechanisms of democracy, is the experience of the Constitutional Tribunal.

It is to the credit of the Eighth Sejm (which passed the decree) and the Ninth Sejm (which elected the justices) that this Tribunal has, after existing barely a year, gained public recognition and respect, because its verdicts "strengthen rationality, democratism, and justice — qualities decisive to legality," according to the Sejm's evaluation of the first general session of the Tribunal's justices.

As for the direct linkage between the activities of the Tribunal and the operating mechanisms of the Sejm, it consists in that the Tribunal's recommendations will influence improvements in the legislative process. The Sejm declared that it desires to avail itself fully of these recommendations in exercising its legislative and control functions.

The third and fourth topics concern the relationship between the Sejm and its base in the society.

At last week's session this issue was raised in the form of an evaluation of the performance of public advisory institutions such as the Socioeconomic Council and the substantial representation of all kinds of self-governments which presents before the Sejm the views of the constituencies it represents, and which enriches socialist parliamentarism.

As for proposals for enriching the mechanisms of socialist democracy in the future, they are linked to the draft decree on public consultations and referendums, which was also considered at the last session of the Sejm. This decree is to crown and broaden, as it were, the experience gained so far (in consultations) as well as to introduce a new institution (the referendum) as an expression of direct democracy. As a Deputy declared during the discussion, the introduction of this institution at present may signal the state's determination to promote renewal, and hence also it may be of symbolic significance.

The debate itself following the first reading was very interesting and inspiring, and it represented a highly desirable parliamentary clash of rationales and arguments relating to the fundamental issues of the broadening of the mechanisms of democracy and improvements in the decisionmaking process.

The dispute concerned specific solutions whose expediency will be decisive to the actual importance of this decree.

This was the first sharp test to which the draft decree had been subjected, and it resulted in the explicit identification of topics to be worked out by the Extraordinary Commission and other Sejm committees.

The discussion of this decree is tantamount to discussion of the position of the Sejm, to discussion of what strengthens the Sejm and promotes the effectiveness of its performance. As can be seen, the session of 18 and 19 March has contributed many interesting elements to thinking about this issue.

1386

CS0:2600/579

MEDIA TREATMENT OF SEJM ACTIVITIES NOTED

Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 26 Mar 87 p 4

[Article by Liliana Czaplewska: "The Right to Principled Criticism" under the rubric "The Citizen--The State--Self-Government"]

[Text] There are no grounds for complaining about lack of information on the activities of the Sejm and the Deputies. Press articles and radio and TV programs provide both a compendium of knowledge and examples of the activities of discrete Deputies, committees, and the Sejm Presidium; they present the history of certain decrees, interpellations, and interventions.

But are the press, radio, and television fully implementing their obligation to present properly the Sejm's activities? This question was tentatively answered by the Bylaws and Membership Commission while drafting an assessment for the PRL [People's Republic of Poland] Sejm Presidium.

The Voters Want to Know

This does not just concern the wellbeing of the Deputies. This is an objective political need of our state, of the forces governing it, and of the society. The voters want to know, and this is their right, about the activities of the supreme legislative body that they had elected, about the activities of the representatives whom they had given their mandate — how they are fulfilling the will of the voters and serving the nation, and what they are doing to improve the welfare of the state and the citizens? This is what we read in the assessment.

At the same time, both the mass media and their representatives had their hands rapped by the Deputies serving on the commission during its session. Some of the reasons were "partial" attendance and the fact that some journalists show up only at the beginning of the sessions. In addition, the local mass media with their limited possibilities provide inadequate information on the activities of the Deputies and the daily work of the voivodship caucuses of Deputies. Similarly, the "Sejm Tribune" TV program is shown "from instance to instance" instead of being shown regularly.

Should Deputies Be Criticized?

The Commission's assessment contains a number of recommendations intended to refine the traditional forms of publicity about the many-sided activities of the Sejm. Reading this assessment begs the important question whether it is allowed to criticize a Deputy and polemicize against his opinions, or whether this is to be regarded as "violating" his parliamentary immunity?

Elzbieta Rutkowska, chairperson of the Commission, and in private life an engineer at ISCO Blachownia in Kedzierzyn-Koziel, answered, "Criticism and polemics against opinions are certainly possible and even needed.

"As for the Deputy, his task is to be so armed with substantive arguments as to be able to defend his views and persuade others of their rightness. After all, we Deputies, while attending meetings in the field, very often hear critical comments from the voters. And although some of these comments are due to unfamiliarity with issues, a Deputy must be prepared and ready to substantively join the discussion."

Deputy Andrzej Gawlowski declared, "I'm against criticism which ignores the complicated conditions under which Deputies adopt particular decisions.

"That is because it is very easy to condemn totally some solution without considering the fact that it may be a choice of the lesser evil. And such solutions are often adopted when it comes to financial matters and the disposable funds are smaller than needed. Decisions on financial matters often have to be hardheaded.

"This also is why, e.g., the recent Sejm decisions on pensions and annuities have been criticized, as if the critics refused to perceive that what can be distributed is only what is available and not what is deserved. When financial issues are not concerned, the 'golden means' is easier to obtain."

1386

CSO:2600/579

PRESS COUNCIL REVIEWS THREE-YEAR PRESS LAW

Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 3 Apr 87 p 6

[Article: "Press Council Meeting: Access to Information, Spokesmen's Activity, Response to Criticism, Level of Polemics"]

[Text] On 2 April, the Press Council of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers discussed suggestions stemming from 3 years of experience with the press law that has been in effect in Poland. The discussion was based on research conducted by the Press Information Center of RSW Prasa-Ksiazka-Ruch publishing cooperative in Krakow and an analysis of court cases which the Ministry of Justice had brought against journalists for injury against personal values.

The questionnaires, which included 160 newspapers and periodicals with various profiles and scopes of influence, showed that nearly 72 percent of the journalists had difficulties in obtaining free access to information, and 55 percent indicated that spokesmen failed to respond concerning obstacles to obtaining information. The most "resistant" in contacts with journalists are, in this order: state enterprises, local government administrative bodies, central government administrative bodies, and bodies of prosecution and administration of justice.

The editorial offices agree in emphasizing the large number of instances where no response to press criticism is forthcoming, but, as the research itself shows, journalists are generally careless about sending critical materials to the parties and institutions involved. One respondent out of every three says that he met with a negative stance vis-a-vis press criticism.

In the discussion, attention was given to the need to interest the journalistic community more broadly not only in the laws but also in the obligations stemming from the law. Actually, a whole 82 percent of those questioned rated their knowledge of the regulations of the press law as good, but the responses altogether show that this conviction is overly optimistic. For example, only 4 percent of the journalists were familiar with the regulations concerning the placement of corrections. Members of the Press Council were critical of the level of press polemic, which rarely contains essential information of interest to the reader, often evidencing private interests and a lack of culture.

The results of the discussion could be reduced to the conclusion that the press law is fulfilling the hopes placed in it and is helpful in the journalists' playing a helpful role vis-a-vis society, but for the image of the press, the most important things are the journalist's knowledge about the problems being taken up, and his personal culture, social sensitivity, and responsibility for his words.

10790

CSO:2600/631

BLOC MEDIA SEMINAR ON 'IDEOLOGY BATTLE'

Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 2 Mar 87 p 2

[Unattributed article: "Journalists' Seminars — Problems of the Ideological Struggle"]

[Text] The problems of the ideological struggle in propaganda were the subject of an international seminar that ended in Serock near Warsaw on 28 February. The seminar was organized by the Chief Directorate of the Polish Journalists' Association and the "Prasa-Ksiazka-Ruch" Worker's Publishing Cooperative's Personnel Training Center.

During the three-day seminar, the participants, journalists and press specialists from Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, the USSR and Poland, exchanged their experiences in opposing propaganda aggression. On the basis of reports by Docent Janusz Kolczynski of the Social Sciences Academy, Jan Bisztyga, deputy director of the PZPR Central Committee Propaganda Department and General Leslaw Wojtasik, deputy director of the Chief Political Directorate of the Polish Army, the seminar participants discussed various aspects of the ideological struggle.

The delegation leaders were received by the director of the PZPR Central Committee Propaganda Department, Jozef Barecki, and also held discussions with the editors of TRYBUNA LUDU and Polish Television.

As Editor Stanislaw Reperowicz, the chairman of the SD Military and Defense Writer's Club, stated, "this was the latest meeting of representatives of journalists's organizations that has discussed various topics connected with the improvement of the journalist's workshop. After the conference, it was concluded that in the face of hostile propaganda against the socialist states, it is necessary to unite all of our nations' efforts both in the material and technical sense and in the sense of tactics and methods and to make better use of our experiences in this area. A new dimension has been given propaganda by the USSR's policy of "glasnost" [publicity] which was much discussed during the meeting".

12261

CSO: 2600/573

POLITICAL NATURE OF ACADEMIC STAFF REVIEWS QUESTIONED

Wroclaw GAZETA ROBOTNICZA in Polish 11 Feb 87 pp 1,3

[Interviews with the rectors of Wroclaw University, the Medical Academy, the Economics Academy, and the Academy of Physical Education, by Lena Kaletowa: "Worthwhile, a Corvee, or a Stressful Experience?"]

[Text] The higher educational institutions of Wroclaw have completed their second personnel review. The duty of a periodic assessment of the academic, instructional, and educational contributions and civic attitudes of the academic faculty ensues from the Decree on Higher Education. These reviews have been eliciting considerable controversy and heated opinions and emotions not just within the academic community alone. We asked the rectors of four higher educational institutions to share with us their reflections on the recent review.

Participating in the roundtable discussion at this newspaper were: Chairman of the Collegium of Rectors, Rector of the Medical Academy in Wroclaw Professor Habilitated Dr Marian Wilimowski; Rector of Wroclaw University Professor Habilitated Dr Jan Mozrzymas; Rector of the Economics Academy in Wroclaw Professor Habilitated Dr Jozef Kaleta; and Rector of the Academy of Physical Education Professor Habilitated Dr Zdzislaw Zagrobelny.

[GAZETA ROBOTNICZA] Are personnel reviews useful to the higher schools, or do they represent a kind of corvee, unnecessary stress?

[Prof M. Wilimowski] It is true that to many members of the faculty such public washing of linen is extremely stressful. But only because what should have been done 40 years ago was not done. Personnel evaluation should become a regular practice not just in the academic community but at every plant and institution.

[Prof J. Kaleta] You are right, Mr Rector. Our Academy has been conducting such evaluations for many years and its personnel have accepted them. Periodic evaluations serve as a basis for qualifying for the rector's or the minister's awards as well as for a parting of ways with those who have not proved themselves as faculty members.

[Prof J. Mozrzymas] I believe that periodic evaluations are useful but their scope and form are debatable. What should be the purpose of evaluating the entire faculty and staff? It should provide a picture of accomplishments as well as shortcomings in various aspects of our activity and serve to compare the development of discrete departments, which at a university vary greatly in specificity. And I believe that the recent personnel review did serve this purpose.

The recent review differs from its predecessor in that the Decree imposes the duty of evaluating the civic attitude of everyone, from full professors to instructors. This kind of evaluation has unfortunately stirred a controversy at the university, owing to the negative evaluations of the civic attitude of seven professors, one docent, and three adjunct professors. The negative evaluations were expressed variously -- some were unanimous while in others the opinion of the commission's members was divided.

[Prof J. Kaleta] At the Economics Academy there were no negative political evaluation. Insofar as I know, no such instances occurred at the higher schools represented here.

[Prof J. Mozrzymas] I believe that the chief yardstick of civic attitude is good scholarship and competence in teaching. Through work one demonstrates his attitude toward the state. Jotting down on the evaluation form such formulaic slogans as "Exemplary," "Good" or "Adequate" to characterize aspects that are not measurable is precisely a cause of unnecessary complications, as demonstrated by the example of our university. What is more, this distracts attention from the positive aspects of the personnel review.

[Prof J. Kaleta] I share Rector Mozrzymas's opinion. If a faculty or staff member is a good teacher or scholar, this should matter most, politically too.

[Prof Z. Zagrobelny] At the Academy of Physical Sciences we evaluated many aspects of the activities of our faculty. It so happened that our two evaluation commissions consisted almost exclusively of party members. None of our evaluations was politically negative. We regarded certain events as closed issues, if only owing to the Abolition and several amnesties. It is not true that commissions consisting of party members evaluate the faculty more severely. I think that they act more astutely and soberly in their evaluations. And if anyone in our midst were to claim that his dismissal was motivated by political considerations, he would not be truthful.

[Prof J. Mozrzymas] At our university negative opinions on civic attitude are a fact. Rector Kaleta is in accord with me that evaluating civic attitude in isolation from academic activities and teaching competence is warranted only in special instances -- and then, of course, both the rector and the political authorities of the university have the duty to take a stand.

[GAZETA ROBOTNICZA] Here we owe our readers an explanation: Articles 132 and 169 of the Decree on Higher Education state that if instructional, educational, or other forms of public activity are in a glaring contrast with the duties of a faculty or staff member at a higher educational institution -- and those duties include the requirement of acceptance of the constitutional

systemic principles of the PRL [People's Republic of Poland] -- then the employee's contract is subject to termination. In the case of professors, upon the consent of the chairman of the Council of Ministers, they have the right of appealing the decision of the departmental evaluation commission to the university evaluation commission, while untenured employees have the right of appealing to the Supreme Administrative Court.

[Prof J. Mozrzymas] The evaluation commissions are the rector's consultative and advisory bodies. The rector alone bears the supreme responsibility within the higher educational institution for the evaluation of members of the faculty. As I mentioned previously, the initial (departmental) evaluations elicited controversy and expressions of disapprobation on the part of not only those concerned. I have received numerous comments critical of the bias and groundlessness of certain departmental-level evaluations, chiefly as regards evaluations of civic attitude. These critical comments derived mainly from persons who had themselves received superior evaluations of their civic attitude and enjoy within the university, in this country, and even abroad, great authority as scholars, teachers, and research organizers. The university appeals commission has for the most part not confirmed the negative lower-level evaluations.

Hence, this is no longer an issue. I believe that I also have contributed to some extent to making it a non-issue by my clearly expressed attitude on each of these controversial cases, based on a thorough analysis of every individual case and consultation with deans and institute directors, as well as on my conviction that the evaluations should facilitate instead of complicating my stewardship of the institution, and also that they should help me in spurring the interest of the academic community in accepting the university's master plan for the year 2000. I intend to present that plan to the Senate in the second half of this February. The future should be more important to us than the past.

[Prof J. Kaleta] This concerns political opinions, and they cannot be divorced from political practice. Discharges owing to political reasons cannot be reconciled with the proclamations, made from the highest tribunes, that what matters is not who is critically disposed toward the reality but how much he contributes to it by his work. This trend is highly explicit in the Soviet Union, which precisely stresses criticism, discussion, and openness to diverse views and desires to include in this process everyone, the creative emigres too -- it is inviting them to return and work for the country.

[GAZETA ROBOTNICZA] A special feature of the current review is that it initiates resolving the problem of adjunct professors, a problem that has become ripe in the last 15 or so years. In every higher educational institutions they account for a majority of the faculty. Pursuant to the decree, this year a decision has to be made as to renewing or terminating their 3-year appointments.

[Prof M. Wilimowski] This is the second review to produce minimal consequences. We would like to have only the best people working in the universities. But we must consider the realities. The universities offer

neither attractive salaries nor housing. At times we make do with people who merely are looking for a job.

The Medical Academy employs nearly 240 adjunct professors. The commissions found that 40 of them do not meet the requirements for academic growth. It is likely that we shall have to terminate the appointments of 15 of these. Of the remainder, some will be retained in clinics on hospital appointments, while others will be given the rank of lecturer. The departure of a too large number of highly qualified experts -- because a distinction should be made between professional level and academic level -- would affect adversely the treatment of patients at the clinics of the Medical Academy.

[Prof Z. Zagrobelny] At our institution the problem of adjunct professors is not as big. We have 45, with 17 working on their habilitation degrees. They are persons of middle age and of promising academic growth. At present three persons are undergoing habilitation proceedings; at our institution this is a big event, because this is happening for the first time in some 15 years. There also exists a group of elderly adjunct professors, eminent experts, some of them instructors in the international class. They have to be respected and retained on contractual basis until they reach retirement age.

[Prof J. Kaleta] At the Economics Academy we shall not renew the appointments of 14 instructors, but this is a normal practice, as each year we let some people go and hire others. We will not renew the appointment of six adjunct professors, but we are offering four of them scientific-technical positions paying the same salaries. Seven adjunct professors are being given the rank of senior lecturer -- they have fewer than 5 years till retirement age and so they cannot aspire to habilitation proceedings. We have warned 23 adjunct professors that unless they complete their habilitation work within 1 or 2 years their appointments will have to be terminated. This is a large number.

[Prof M. Wilimowski] I think that this is the principal purpose of the reviews -- to motivate better the persons being evaluated. A large number of individuals have reached a highly advanced degree of [habilitation work or research projects, etc]. We expect that the review will spur them to complete it.

[GAZETA ROBOTNICZA] Should such methods be employed in the academic community? It is said that a genuine scholar needs not be egged on by administrative measures.

[Prof J. Kaleta] You are right: scholars should not be egged on. They should follow their calling and not be pressured. But there are not only saints and angels at the universities. We are part of the society, and most of us justify in some way or another our indolence. Some sanctions are necessary. Speaking of myself as an example, I don't work as well when I have no deadline to follow.

But to return to the subject of adjunct professors, these warnings seem to be highly effective. At present they are pledging themselves to complete their [habilitation, etc.] work on schedule. It will not be seemly for them to report a year later that they failed to accomplish what they had promised.

[Prof J. Mozrzymas] At the university such a review means a huge amount of work. We have more than 1,500 faculty members, including 670 adjunct professors. I can't say at present exactly how many of them will have to be let go. I believe that they will number about 50 persons who, owing to their insignificant scholarly contributions, will not be retained by the university. We leave the decision to the Senate's commission for new cadres. We would like the evaluations to be examined by a more diversified body that is less personally involved in the departments themselves and has a more university- and future-oriented outlook. The rector would only then take the final decision.

[Prof J. Kaleta] I am not sure whether the evaluations should be internal. I believe that the members of my department should be evaluated by their colleagues from the same departments in Krakow or Warsaw universities. The departmental evaluation commission is not competent or knowledgeable about everything and of necessity it accepts evaluations by superiors which are not always objective. It would suffice to poll eponymous departments in other universities.

[Prof J. Mozrzymas] This would undoubtedly make the evaluations more objective. I cannot agree that the commissions should accept evaluations by the superiors of the persons being evaluated.

[Prof J. Kaleta] They could at most guide themselves by the criterion of the number of scholarly publications.

[Prof J. Mozrzymas] In many disciplines it is known which scientific periodicals are high-level and which scientific congresses count. If a person who publishes in less reputable periodicals and does not present his papers at congresses receives a highly positive evaluation, such an evaluation is clearly exaggerated.

[GAZETA ROBOTNICZA] What will happen to these highly qualified experts whose appointments won't be renewed?

[Prof Z. Zagrobelny] This applies only to a very few individuals at the Academy of Physical Education, and I believe that they will find work elsewhere.

[Prof J. Kaleta] We are proposing the establishment of expertise cooperatives. Such individuals have already worked as economic consultants while teaching at the university and by associating themselves in these cooperatives they could usefully ply their skills. Their material situation will of a certainty be better than it is at present. Expertise cooperatives operate in Lodz and Gdansk, and are prospering very much.

[Prof J. Mozrzymas] We bear in mind the humanitarian aspect of this personnel action. We will recommend the discharged individuals for [teaching positions at] schools. Unfortunately, schools [below university level] are unwilling to accept Ph.D.'s. The school systems are experiencing shortages of qualified personnel, and yet persons with Ph.D. degrees in physics have problems finding

work. We shall cooperate with the educational authorities to help these people. And the secondary schools will undoubtedly benefit from hiring them.

[Prof M. Wilimowski] In the case of [persons discharged from] the Medical Academy finding a job is easier, though not as easy as it might seem. We may feel apprehensive about the willingness of hospitals and health care teams to employ such persons. Often they are eminent experts in extremely narrow specialties for whom there is no suitable employment in the regular public health system.

[Prof J. Kaleta] At the outset you had asked whether the reviews are useful to the universities. Undoubtedly yes. They are needed. But, as mentioned by Rector Wilimowski, hopes for an improvement in the personnel situation should not be linked to these reviews or evaluation. The level of university teachers is not what we would like it to be because we have very limited possibilities for hiring instructors. We should employ three or four times as many instructors as we need. Then there would be a basis for competition. We can offer neither attractive salaries nor housing to instructors. And the perspective of tenured and quiet 15-20 years of university teaching afforded by the Decree on Higher Education is not conducive to competition. Only competition can serve to identify the best teachers.

[GAZETA ROBOTNICZA] Thank you for the interview.

1386

C30:2600/577

EFFICIENT JOB PLACEMENT FOR GRADUATES DISCUSSED

Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 4 Mar 87 p 1

[Article by Andrzej Skrzypczak: "What Next After Graduation?" surtitled "Higher-School Graduates Are Needed"]

[Text] How can higher-school graduates be employed rationally in accordance with their training and the needs? What should be done in order that they may work in the localities and regions where they are needed most? How can the professional adaptation of specialists with university degrees be facilitated?

These are only a few of the questions discussed on 2 and 3 March 1987 at the Ministry of Labor, Wages, and Social Welfare with persons in charge of the employment of graduates. The pertinent proposals and recommendations will be utilized in further studies and in employment policies.

Below are the comments of the Ministry's experts:

A Suitable Recruitment Policy

Jan Borek of Rzeszow said, "If each year more than 20,000 teachers and educators abandon their profession owing to either retirement or career switch, we cannot fill this gap with new graduates. The shortage of teaching personnel can, though, be markedly alleviated by more energetic action on the part of the educational authorities and the schools themselves. I refer here to augmenting the number of stipend grants, a sufficiently early and accurate recruitment policy, and the signing of preliminary contracts with teacher trainees. My own research indicates that the shortage of teaching personnel is most acute in the voivodships in which few young people major in education."

Irena Skrzynska of Wroclaw said, "In theory there should be no problem with the employment of the graduates of agricultural higher schools. There would be no such problem in practice either, or it would be much smaller, were new students to be fully aware that, following their graduation, they would be working chiefly in the countryside. I am not sure whether the issue will be resolved through improved information on job opportunities for agricultural-school graduates. If the proportion of women in these studies continues to increase, the problems will be aggravated."

Job Demand and Job Offers "Miss" Each Other

Currently the most urgent problem to be solved by our ministry, jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture, is how to assure practical training, followed by regular employment, in the veterinary services for veterinary graduates. My experience and that of my colleagues indicates that the actual demand for these graduates is much higher than the formally made job offers.

1386

CSO:2600/577

NATIONAL YOUTH/SCHOOL COUNCILS FIND POLITICAL FAVOR

Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 7 Apr 87 p 2

[Article by Wlodzimierz Syzdek: "A Lesson in Democracy"]

[Text] When in one of the Chelm region schools an initiative was formulated for creating a separate "national youth council" there was no lack of skepticism. There were the questions: "does the youth deserve to share in government and be accorded partner-like status? After all it is passive and indifferent, waiting to have everything handed over on 'a silver platter'." But the originators reached their goal. The council became a fact. Not too long ago in the historic PKWN [Polish Committee of National Liberation] chamber the first session took place.

We Ourselves for Ourselves

At the Association of Medical Schools I spoke with Ewa Wojciechowska, the leader of the initiating committee, and presently the leader of School Youth Council (as this is the title they adopted). Thanks to her and her friends the idea of entrusting youth with the realization of independent and responsible tasks was born during a school meeting with provincial government officials. The teachers speak about Ewa: "a regular volcano of ideas, an active social worker, and an excellent student as well."

It was Ewa's stubbornness and resolve that caused the initiative to take on a concrete shape. The young people found many supporters for this idea (among them the former KW PZPR 1st secretary Alojzy Zielinski, council members, and social activists). One of the KW PZPR secretaries, Witoslaw Szczasny, repeatedly stressed that "this experiment on a national scale must be given support and a proper climate must be created for it."

"The most difficult thing for us was the working out of the statutes, the voting regulation, and the framework of the activities program," said Ewa Wojciechowska. "The Municipal Peoples' Council was quick to help. We received a complete set of legal regulations and examples of the principles for action for an adult self-government. On this basis, after many consultations during civics classes at most of the schools in Chelm, we created our most important documents."

The initiative stimulated interest among the Chelm youth. A few weeks after formation the group of organizers numbered 100 members which included representation from all but one high school, and several of the grammar schools.

"We looked kindly upon the activities of the young people," states Stefan Machowicz, leader of the Municipal Peoples' Council. "We noticed in this a chance to enliven the passive Chelm community and an opportunity to have the youth realize its interests, desires, and needs. Perhaps this could be a lesson in democracy. The young people created everything by themselves from the basics. There was nothing to copy from. We were even more surprised by the maturity of the documents they prepared. We decided that we can share authority, responsibility, and funds with the young without any fear."

This position was found in an MRN [Municipal Peoples' Council] resolution from 12 December 1986.

"In recognition for the socially desirable development of an experimental form of self-government activity by the youth of the Chelm municipality," we read, "which had the effect of a multifaceted activation of the community, an educational aspect, and a preparation of young people for participation in the activities of the ruling bodies and territorial self-government units. The MRN is creating a fund designated for the School Youth Council from the resources of the MRN, from funds obtained by school youth from cultural, economic, and educational activities, and from donations. The funds will be allocated for use by the young people." A month later the first ceremonial session of the council took place. Present were representatives from the Government Council, the Central Committee, Provincial and Municipal Government. For 4 hours there were no unnecessary speeches, utopian ideas or initiatives. All proposals and suggestions were realistic and concrete.

"We ourselves must locate problems that must be solved in the city," said Piotr Koziel from the Basic Construction School, "and we should not try the big matters at the start. We should start by giving Chelm history some publicity to arouse local patriotism and link ourselves to work on renovating historical objects. Would it not be worthwhile to sponsor the renovation of a specific building and then create a Center for Youth Culture in it?"

"Our important task can be systematic work with youth threatened by demoralization," proposed Edyta Pietraszek from the Continuing Education Center for Economists. "We must show young alcoholics, people in trouble with the law, and the lost, the way to a normal life. We must try to draw them into our undertakings."

The Municipal Peoples' Council decided to allocate 5 million zloty to the MRMS [School Youth Council]. Another such sum will be allocated to support social actions started by the young people. These are small sums, thus there is much thought about wise expenditure and the procurement of additional funds.

"We must develop our own additional resources, to create something in the city that is permanent and necessary: a recreational, sports, or a cultural center," said Grzegorz Szatkowski from the 1st General Education Secondary

School. "There are numerous. At the same time we should take a position against today's plague of waste and prove to the adults that it is possible to work without unnecessary loss of materials."

From among the proposals three directions for action were chosen by democratic means: to fill the youth community's free time with attractive activities, to build up the cultural and sport facilities, to preserve the environment. The young people are also dreaming of participating in building a walk-in medical center for students, a pool, and ski lifts.

From Words to Deeds

Almost on the following day the members of the MRMS announced the information about the democratic elections and the composition of the council in all the schools. It was important to reach the 8,000 member student community in Chelm. The matter was taken with full seriousness at the July Manifesto 2nd General Education Secondary School. 6 members of the council are students there. The activities of these 6 have had the support of the administration and the educational community from the very beginning. The MRMS was judged to be an important element in the educational process. The members of the council, whom I met at the 2nd LO [General Education Secondary School], though full of enthusiasm and energy, did not hide their fears and worries.

"Since this is an experiment, then many things may simply not work," said Artur Krasowski. "Especially when it comes to the protection of the environment. Since adult council members seem powerless we may not be able to do much here. Equally difficult but most important will be the education of young cadres for the council. Our term in office lasts only 2 years. Without worthy successors the initiative will fail. We are already talking with friends from the lower grades. There is still much doubt and mistrust. They are waiting for our actions and their effects."

"We are delighted by the friendly attitude of the governing bodies and youth organizations, especially the ZSMP [Union of Socialist Polish Youth]," said Ewa Wajda, the vice-leader of the council. "This cooperation will allow us to avoid errors and inappropriate activities. After all, we are just beginning to learn democracy."

Members of the council must meet a high standard at their schools. None of them may neglect their educational obligations.

"The important thing is," states Adam Polak, "that the young 'council members' should become models to be imitated by their fellow students. Otherwise, they will not gain the needed authority and recognition."

The young people have been given wide latitude in their actions. They can democratically decide about about expending their allocated resources, and make contact with the enterprises and institutions in Chelm. They can initiate the necessary social activities at the appropriate place and time, and gather the funds they consider necessary to support their activities. They will meet every three months at council sessions. This is to exchange experiences, admit mistakes, find new initiatives and solutions. Between sessions the following

sections of the MRMS will be active : economic, environmental protection, sport, and culture. Their members will have the burden of working in the community.

"Between council sessions we will be inviting the youth to attend our meetings," said Stefan Machowicz, "it is important that members of the MRMS be aware of the current problems in the city. They should know what is possible and what must remain as a future project. We expect reciprocity."

Today it is difficult to predict whether the School Youth Municipal Council will remain an experiment or if it will pass into the permanent tradition of social activity among the young inhabitants of Chelm. There are too many unknowns: will the young people have enough enthusiasm and energy to battle the difficulties, will they be able to cope with the lack of satisfaction often present in this type of activity, will they eventually find successors. The answers to this question will be found in the near future.

12411

CSO: 2600/599

YOUTH GROUPS NOTE CONTACTS IN BLOC, WEST, THIRD WORLD

Opole TRYBUNA OPOLSKA in Polish 3 Apr 87 p 3

[Address delivered by Grazyna Janus, envoy of Opole region, at the Sejm session of 18 March 1987: "Close Contacts of Youth"]

[Text] Polish youth, like its peers in the east and west of our continent, is open to the world, full of the spirit of inquiry and desire to know about other countries, people, and cultures. Implementing their statutory political and educational objectives, youth organizations meet these natural needs of the rising generation.

The Polish socialist unions of youth and students cooperate with more than 300 foreign youth organizations, councils, and movements throughout the world. Our main goals in implementing international contacts include the struggle for peace, consolidation of Poland's authority abroad, and cooperation with the youth organizations of other countries, and chiefly of the Soviet Union and the countries of the socialist community.

The international activities of the Polish youth movement are based on several fundamental principles. They are: the primacy of maintaining broad fraternal contacts with the youth unions of the socialist countries, close contacts with the communist and leftist youth organizations of the capitalist countries, cooperation with progressive organizations in the developing countries, and readiness to engage in dialogue and cooperation with all democratic youth organizations active in behalf of the maintenance of peace and international cooperation. Both in our ideological premises and in practical terms we attempt to make our international activities part of the overall foreign policy of the state. An important impetus to our actions is the international initiatives and visits undertaken by the chairman of the Council of State of the Polish People's Republic.

By initiating the convening in Warsaw, on the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II, of a world conference of member countries of the CESS [Conference on European Security and Safety] we desire to complement the commemoration of that date, that "admonitory" date, with a meeting of Europe's youth. Bilateral visits to the GDR, China, the Korean People's Democratic Republic, Cuba, and Italy, provided an impetus for intensifying contacts with the youth of these countries. They have fruited in a broad exchange of youth

groups and brigades. Our contacts with the youth organizations of the socialist countries are entering upon an era of unprecedented scope, frequency, diversity of forms, and decentralized exchange. The summer youth exchange drive as well as contacts with the youth organizations of the socialist countries, especially of our neighbors, also are being markedly expanded. Thus unprecedented large-scale exchange of youth contributes to better mutual knowledge, brings together the youth of our countries, and promotes the formation of beautiful friendships.

Important events attracting the attention and activism of Polish youth unions also include the commencement of preparations for the 13th World Youth and Student Festival and the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the Great October.

In our cooperation with the youth organizations of the capitalist countries we stress chiefly the strengthening and development of political contacts with the communist and leftist organizations as well as dialogue with representatives of the liberal and Christian-democratic communities, especially with the youth wings of the ruling parties in West Europe. One reflection of this dialogue is the Second Polish-West German Youth Forum that had ended a few days ago and that represents a major contribution to the whole of the ongoing normalization of relations between the two countries. Its final document declares, "The Forum's participants express their deep conviction that the principal task of the youth and youth organizations of the FRG and the PRL [People's Republic of Poland] in promoting lasting, peaceful and good-neighbor relations between both countries, now and in the future, consists in active implementation of the provisions of the Treaty of 7 December 1970 and other treaties and agreements concluded between both countries. At the same time, we condemn the territorial claims against Poland advanced by certain leading politicians of the FRG, as a peril to European security and cooperation."

The highlights of our contacts with Western partners now pertain to the attitude of youth toward the principal trends and civilizational problems of the present era: introduction of new production technologies, protection of man's natural environment, the new mass media and their influence on culture, and above all the struggle for peace and against the greatest perils to it -- armaments, racism, neocolonialism, and neofascism.

A qualitatively different kind of contacts prevails in our cooperation with the youth organizations of the developing countries. It focuses on demonstrating, insofar as is possible to us, solidarity with their struggle and providing assistance to progressive youth organizations in Latin American, Asian, and African countries. This cooperation is steadily growing and diversifying -- e.g., owing to the formation of solidarity funds or through assistance to students from these regions who attend Polish universities.

Through its mass participation in the International Year of Peace, Polish youth has supported the initiative of the Soviet leader for eliminating nuclear arms arsenals. The International Year of Peace has borne fruit in the form of several thousand political, scientific, cultural, tourist, and sports events, including seminars and olympiads of knowledge of peace, decades of

ZSMP [Polish Socialist Youth Union] circles, summer camps, peace relay races, and the highly popular "Rock for Peace" concerts. An invariable and lasting element of the international activities of the socialist youth unions remains internationalist education, in which education for peace predominates. The voice of Polish youth is not lacking at the world forum of progressive youth movement. During last years the SFMD [World Federation of Democratic Youth] Congress in Budapest we offered a proposal for organizing in Warsaw in 1989 a meeting of young parliamentarians from the countries-signatories of the Final Act of the CESS. We also expressed our readiness to convene this year an international seminar on the participation of youth in protecting the natural environment, and a peace forum of the youth of the Baltic countries.

In presenting the balance sheet of the international activities of the Polish youth movement mention should also be made of the related constraints. These include the inadequate trust in the youth movement shown by those directing the Polish foreign policy and, as a corollary, the absence of a broad program for a proactive utilization of youth organizations in international activities. And yet, youth contacts can successfully complement the arsenal of the means of "adult" foreign policy, while an intensified propaganda campaign on the subject of Polish youth, when also conducted by youth unions, could serve well the interests of our country.

Summing up, I wish to stress that the foreign activities of the youth movement shall continue to consistently promote the tasks of Polish foreign policy, present the Polish *raison d'etat*, and strengthen the prestige and role of Poland and of the entire socialist community in international youth contacts.

1386

CSO:2600/577

HIGHER EDUCATION PERSONNEL, RECRUITMENT ISSUES NOTED

Institutions' Recruitment Attempts

Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 24 Mar 87 pp 1,10

[Article by (akow): "Invitation to the Higher School" surtitled "Preparatory Courses and Consultations; University Teachers Visit Secondary Schools"]

[Text] (Own information) Higher schools have commenced an information campaign linked to this year recruitment of applicants for higher studies. This concerns not only familiarizing secondary-school graduates with the new rules for admission which will apply for the first time this year but also and above all making it easier for young people to choose the right areas of study and helping them to prepare for the entrance examinations and subsequent study.

This is particularly important to small-town youth originating from worker and peasant milieux, who this year will no longer be eligible for point credits [on their entrance examinations]. To assure the most promising young people with an equal opportunity for admission regardless of their social origin, institutions of higher education are organizing, in cooperation with school systems, various forms of study assistance to prospective highschool graduates. It is worth noting that the neediest ones are thus assisted at the expense of the state.

At the Main School of Planning and Statistics (SPGiS) in Warsaw the first preparatory course was opened already early in March and will continue for 10 successive Saturdays. It was organized by the ZMW [Rural Youth Union] which, according to the secretary of the School's enrollment recruitment commission Boguslawa Sosnkowska, has taken an active part in the recruitment drive. That organization will not only sponsor a second course to open a week before the entrance examinations but also distribute to secondary schools approximately 1,000 information brochures containing sample test questions, and it also is organizing meetings between university students and prospective high-school graduates.

An interesting form of assistance to high-school seniors is the so-called collective consultations offered by the SGPiS. This year they will commence on 6 April in the School's main building and be offered each Monday until the end of June. They are meetings between high-school seniors and lecturers on

various subjects who provide the young people with explanations about entrance examinations. In addition, the SGPiS offers a free preparatory course for worker-peasant youth.

Many interesting forms of cooperation with prospective high-school graduates are practiced by Wroclaw University where, as early as last February, according to Deputy Director of the Instructional Department Leszek Cieloch, was held the first round of a preparatory course for students of secondary schools in Legnica, Jelenia Gora, Klodzk, and Walbrzych. The second round is envisaged for the end of June and beginning of July.

The university also sent out to high-school seniors invitations to tour university departments at which they could familiarize themselves with selected areas of study, requirements, and even career opportunities subsequent to their earning university degrees. Twice a week faculty members brief high-school graduates about the subjects of entrance examinations. Also being organized are trips by university teachers to the secondary schools inviting them.

As it turns out, the status of these trips varies. For example, without waiting to be asked by secondary schools, the Gdansk Polytechnic dispatched on its own 40 invitations to these schools but received only eight replies. The reason for the low interest is probably the problems in getting secondary-school teachers to accompany their students on trips to the universities. Similar problems beset the trips of university teachers to secondary schools. According to Ewa Mazur, directress of the Instructional Department at the Gdansk Polytechnic, sometimes one has to invite himself as it were.

The information campaign conducted by the medical academies in Lodz and Lublin is on a somewhat smaller scale than that of the universities and polytechnics. These academies will offer free courses to worker and peasant youth, and their teachers, too, will insofar as possible make trips to secondary schools. But since they also are busy in hospitals and clinics, such trips are often made instead by members of the ZSP [Polish Students Association], which is taking an active part in the enrollment recruitment drive.

The earliest date at which entrance examinations will begin to be given is in the second half of June, at higher schools of fine arts, academies of physical education, and merchant-marine schools. Next, on 1 July, examinations will be given at military academies and higher officer training schools (WOSL [Higher Air Force Officers School] in Deblin on 16 June and WAM [Military Medical Academy] on 4 July), followed by civilian medical academies on 6 July and other higher educational institutions on 7 July.

Admission Changes Spur Anxious Questions

Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 29 Apr 87 pp 1,2

[Article by (akow): "Everything About Enrollment Recruitment" subtitled "Telephone Inquiries Answered First-Hand"]

[Text] When his secondary-school certificate shows no A-grades, does an applicant for admission to the university have a chance to be admitted? What is the nature of the qualifying interview? How many credit points are given for the secondary-school grade record? Will that school's recommendation be needed? Such were the questions most often asked of a manned telephone service, provided this time under the slogan, "Everything for Enrollment Recruitment."

As of this year, new rules for university admissions apply. This accounts for the great interest in these rules shown by both prospective secondary-school graduates and their parents across the nation, who have also been making numerous telephone inquiries to our expert, Dr Jozef Lepiech of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. Below are the answers to the questions most often asked and doubts most often expressed by our readers.

The qualifying interview. Pursuant to the new admission rules, examining commissions at institutions of higher learning will hold such interviews with all candidates for admission. The interviews are intended to get to know the applicant better, and they serve to ask him, e.g., why he has chosen some or other area of study, what does he know about it, how does he visualize his future career, what does he view as his life's work. It must be emphasized, however, that it is the commissions themselves that decide on the course of the interview, as there are no rules for it. Since some people have called to ask whether such interviews will also serve to check's on the applicant's secondary-school learning, the answer is no, that is what the entrance examinations are for. A maximum of five points can be credited for the qualifying interview.

Many questions also are asked about the secondary school's recommendation of the applicant. Credit points, five at most, are granted for a good recommendation of this kind. If the recommendation is lacking, the applicant forfeits these points. This is important information, especially to secondary-school graduates of previous years, who should obtain a recommendation from their schools or workplaces -- if they are working.

The maximum number of points credited [to entrance-examination scores] for secondary-school grade records is 20. It is worth noting that if that record lists different grades on the same subject, only the highest grade is credited. The secondary-school senior can also specify the foreign language for which he wants to be given credit points regardless of whether or not it is the language he will have to pass in the entrance examinations.

A poor secondary-school grade record does not, of course, rule out admission to a university; it is the results of the entrance examination and the qualifying interview that count.

Applicants are given the opportunity to demonstrate their learning independently of the grades they received in the secondary school. In his conversations with readers, J. Lepiech stressed that vacancies in institutions of higher learning are chiefly reserved for the best students. The admission rules, developed on the basis of longtime studies and following broad public

consultation, are intended precisely to identify the most capable candidates for admission.

Academic Staff Review Results

Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 10 Apr 87 p 6

[Article by (par.): "Once More the Bedeviling Issue of Adjunct Professors" subtitled "Session of the Main Council for Science and Higher Education"]

[Text] (P) (Own information) Two topics dominated the first day of the plenary session of the Main Council for Science and Higher Education, which commenced yesterday, 9 April 1987, at the Warsaw Polytechnic. The first was the just-ended periodic evaluation of university teachers and the second, the status of scholarly publishing and scholarly information.

Periodic evaluations of university teachers always are a highly emotional issue, especially considering that they are linked to the legislated requirement for the rotation of adjunct professors. According to figures provided by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, 93 percent of persons whose scholarly contributions and competence in teaching were reviewed received positive evaluations. Slightly more than 500 persons, mainly adjunct professors and assistant lecturers, will be let go by the institutions of higher education. Perhaps two docents will be let go as well, but their appeals are still being processed. The number of persons transferred to other posts is not very high. Furthermore, more than 1,300 persons will be conditionally retained in their posts, the condition being that they complete within a year their doctoral or habilitational work.

The Ministry found that the evaluations were well-organized, caused no major controversies, and did not interfere with the work of higher schools. What is more, they provided voluminous information on the status of academic personnel, the prospects for its advancement, and the obstacles to that advancement. However, the purposes of the evaluations were not fully accomplished. The status quo persists at institutions of higher learning -- the flawed structure of their employment continues. Not many people will have their employment contracts terminated, and thus few opportunities for advancement will arise for young academic personnel. This means the persistence of the problem of what to do about adjunct professors who fail to complete on schedule their habilitation work. A representative of the Ministry admitted that, as a result of the current evaluations, a decision on this matter was simply postponed, this time until 1991 when the legislated term of rotation expires. There is thus nothing surprising in that the adjunct professor issue has become a major topic of discussions and once again the cooperation of various ministries, including e.g. the Ministry of Education, and the R&D centers of industry is being demanded in order to solve the problem of the employment of adjunct professors whose appointments will have to be terminated.

Other shortcomings uncovered by these evaluations are, according to the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, the excessively liberal verdicts of the evaluation commissions concerning individuals whose scholarly growth is

unpromising, as well as evaluations that are too onesided by not paying enough attention to teaching competence.

The review has been completed and the conclusions formulated. Time will show the extent to which the accumulated data indicating barriers to academic advancement will be utilized.

However, time is getting more and more scarce so far as solving the problems of material resources, and chiefly those of the availability of scholarly publications, both foreign and domestic, is concerned. Already during its previous term of office the Main Council for Science and Higher Education had calculated that, given the current state of our printing industry and the complications besetting publishing, the average university professor has a chance to get his scholarly work published once every 22 years. The situation since then has not improved.

Rector Election Results Posted

Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 30 Apr-1 May 87 p 5

["New Rectors-Elect"--PAP report]

[Text] Poznan. The Senate of the Karol Marcinkowski Medical Academy in Poznan has elected a new rector-elect, the previous vice rector of that academy and eminent specialist in audiology and speech Professor Antoni Prusiewicz.

Koszalin. Professor Dr of Engineering Sciences Zdzislaw Piatek, a graduate of the Warsaw Polytechnic, was elected on 29 April 1987 the rector-elect of the country's smallest engineering school, the Higher School of Engineering in Koszalin.

Warsaw University Rector Elected

Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 23 Apr 87 p 5

["Professor Bialkowski is Elected Rector of Warsaw University"--PAP report]

[Text] The nation's largest institution of higher learning, Warsaw University, has elected a new rector, its current Acting Rector Professor Grzegorz Bialkowski, an eminent physicist and member of the Advisory Council under the Chairman of the Council of State.

1386

CSO: 2600/602

pa

'YOUTH PARTICIPATION' LAW IMPLEMENTATION REVIEWED

Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 16 Apr 87 p 7

[Article by (Wit.) : "A First Look at the 'Youth' Law"]

[Text] The realization of the law from 22 May 1986 on the principles for youth participation in national, social, economic, and cultural life of the country was discussed on 15 April at a meeting of the Sejm Commission for National Education and Youth.

The law which came into being on 1 January 1987 has a fundamental significance for the youth. The provisions contained in it describe in detail the role of the younger generation in society, the principles for its shared responsibility for national development, and also the responsibilities of the organs of government and administration in the fields of education, upbringing, creation of the proper conditions for active youth citizenship participation.

In announcing the information about the realization of the law the minister for youth matters Aleksander Kwasniewski stated that presently the most important concern is the creation of the missing executive acts. Five were approved on 5 January 1987, the remaining two, which deal with aid to families and guardians of youth who are not able to assure upbringing, education, and care, and aid to handicapped youth are still in protracted deliberation. Equally important is the publicity given to the contents of the law among the young. In the few months since the act has been implemented its contents become well known among the youth organizations, but the important thing is that unaffiliated youth learn about the law, this includes students and young workers. It is apparent that to take advantage of the possibilities created by this type of document it is important that it become universally known among the young in whose interest it was enacted.

Speaking on this matter, representative Wieslawa Gozdz (non-party) from the young representatives group concluded that one of the places where the law should be publicized is the school. There seems to be no impediment in discussing it during civics classes.

Some representatives called attention to the fact that implementation of the law, for example in taking up initiatives in the field of housing, and

preventive medicine may be affected by the general economic situation, availability of construction materials, and resources of the health services. It was also concluded that because of the short time that the "youth" law has been in effect it is too early to make a categorical statement about the speed and effectiveness of its implementation.

The meeting was moderated by the leader of the Commission for National Education and Youth , representative Kazimierz Pilat (PZPR). Participants in the discussion were: Julian Bartkowski (PZPR), Jacek Buganski (ZSL [United Peasant Party]), Antonina Dziuban (PZPR), Stanisława Giećewicz-Piłarska (SD [Democratic Party]), Mikołaj Kozakiewicz (ZSL), Jacek Piechota (PZPR), Albin Siekierski (PZPR).

12411

CSO: 2600/599

SCOUTING UNION ISSUES 'ENVIRONMENTAL ALERT'

Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 23 Apr 87 p 2

[Article by (P.): "A Healthy Environment - A Healthy Person"]

[Text] On 22 April the leader of the ZHP [Polish Scout Union] announced an alert for the Polish Scout Union. It was to last 4 days, until Sunday which was included. Its slogan: "A healthy environment - a healthy person".

Today, at alarm meetings members of the organization will become familiar with the text of the special order. The text of the order and alert materials will be supplied to the groups by communications staff. The timing of this new ZHP undertaking was not known by the cubs and scouts until the last moment.

The central tasks for the specific days were coded. The key to decoding them are the words of the scouting hymn "We will give all we have to Poland."

One must give recognition to this new initiative undertaken by the union which has over 2 million members. The signpost of scout activity will be the 9th and 10th points of the scouting law: "A scout is a friend to nature, he learns its beauty and secrets", "A scout wishes to be strong and able, he does not smoke tobacco, he does not drink alcoholic beverages and battles addiction."

An opportunity has been created to renew activity by children and youth around ecological concerns. It is also intended to popularize the preservation of health, which is the practice of hygiene in one's lifestyle, sport and other forms fresh air exercise.

Units of the regional administration and organizations which are concerned with the preservation of the environment have been ready for 10 days (during the time of the so-called instructor's alert) with proposals of a local nature for group activities. They have also secured the technical assistance for their realization. The scouts will need this assistance over the next few days.

12411

CSO:2600/599

SCOUTS' ENVIRONMENTAL ALERT PROJECT EVALUATED

Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 27 Apr p 2

[Article by (P.): "No One is Too Young To Serve the Nation"]

[Text] Sunday afternoon 26 April at the Central Alert Staff. There is the clatter of telex machines, telephone bells, reports from special communications members. The atmosphere is one of concentration. This is the last day of the alert. At 22:00 the staff will hold an activity meeting. A similar one took place on Saturday.

On 25 April data came in which indicates that over two million cubs, boy and girl scouts participated in completing the work of the alert. This was a Day of Useful Work. 490 hectares of forest were planted, natural monuments were marked with special plaques and the fences surrounding them were mended. In accordance to health and safety rules streams, irrigation canals, and fire emergency reservoirs were cleaned. In parks, the benches and rubbish containers were painted. Stones were cleared from fields.

In Knyszyn the collected stones were designated for the foundation of a new pre-school. In Ksiazynice the scouts from the Zabia Wola battalion planted forest trees. Czestochowa scouts cleaned up the terrain around the Krakow-Czestochowa Jura castles, while cubs and scouts from Warsaw Praga-Poludnie worked in the Jan Sobieski preserve. At the Osina battalion, Szczecin flag, an abandoned waste water treatment plant belonging to a PGR [State Farm] complex was discovered.

The alert fell during the Week for Citizens' Social Activity. The older scouts joined in activities which preceded the 1 May holiday.

The situation was similar on Sunday. The work was interconnected with participation in sport-recreational festivities. The cubs and scouts invited their parents, teachers, and friends. The boys and girls tried out their physical prowess. They organized health food stands, exhibits of publications, and sales of posters whose theme was the protection of the environment. This was the scene in Kalisz, Pila, Mlawa, and Legionow, and also in many, many other cities, towns, and villages. In case of rain the activities were held in school recreation rooms.

The ZHP [Polish Scout Union] alert is over. The scouting leaders have managed to interest their charges in alert meetings. The cubs and scouts were not disappointed by their organization. It fulfilled their expectations. Among the adults, the activities met with a cordial reception.

One cannot stop with merely noting down the scouts' achievements and messages sent. They must be utilized in the work of services which are engaged in protecting the environment. Equally important is the maintenance of interest in sport and fresh air exercise among the cub and scout groups. After all the slogan of the alert had two parts "A healthy environment - a healthy person."

12411

CSO:2600/599

VIDEOS SPUR LEGAL DISCUSSIONS, CLUB FORMATIONS

Warsaw PERSPEKTYWY in Polish No 16, 17 Apr 87 p 25

[Article by Franciszek Skwierawski: "Video"]

[Text] The dull discussions on the subject of Polish video are slowly coming to an end. An exchange of reports has begun and concrete plans and propositions are being formulated.

The Katowice International Press and Book Club which is well known for its activities has for the second time organized its popular science conference, "Video -- State and Prospects". The many interesting problems with which video is grappling includes certain legal questions. One can assume that these legal discrepancies will be cleared up by the expected new law on cinematography. Many problems connected with the production, handling and distribution of video films will then be regulated. Legal regulations are now all the more necessary as Poland has become known in Europe as a land of absolute video piracy. It is therefore expected that a court can imprison persons who violate the new regulations on the production and distribution of cassettes, fine them or confiscate equipment and cassettes used in illegal activities.

It is worth adding that the law will exclude items such as teledisks used for scientific or didactic purposes as well as those used to make home films. The expected new legal regulations were described at the Katowice conference by Ryszard Krysko, director of the Department of Film Economics and Technology in the Ministry of Culture and Art.

Lew Rywin, director of Polish Television's Poltel Agency provided interesting information on practical activities connected with the import of foreign films for distribution on video cassettes and the possibilities for cooperation with foreign firms interested in investing foreign currency in Polish video.

An evaluation of the situation and the needs of the Polish video market within the context of the practical experiences of foreign enterprises in Poland (the ITI Joint Stock Company) were provided by the director of the company, Mariusz Walter who also described ITI's experiences so far in the production of videos. The firm specializes in an ambitious repertoire and in subjects that can expect a lasting demand rather than those connected with any passing

fashions or the short-lived interests of new VCR buyers who usually first reach for cheap entertainment or porno films. Director Mariusz Walter wants to participate in the distribution of popular-science cassettes.

ITI does not intend to compete in this field of video because it is and will remain the domain of the pirate market. Any such competition will always end in fiasco, all the more so as Polish institutions involved in the distribution of video cassettes pay a 50-percent tax which means that pirate videos will always be 50 percent cheaper. Such a system of taxes on official cassettes creates barriers that are diligently avoided by pirates and the coming legal restrictions (including those that have long existed and those included in the present law on cinematography) will probably not change the situation much.

12261

CSO: 2600/573

BRIEFS

SOVIET TV SHOW ON CHERNOBYL--"I managed to see the first part of the Soviet film about Chernobyl," Anna Stronska wrote in ODRODZENIE, "despite the fact that the television network neglected to announce this exceptional program. Not everyone has the time or desire to listen to the lengthy 'Broadcasts' or other announcements, beginning with the 'Schedule for Tomorrow,' which gives a detailed account of the subjects of the lessons to be presented for the schools, but which says nothing about the content of broadcasts enigmatically called 'journalism.' Really, not everyone was bound to guess that this very documentary was being transmitted under the innocuous title of 'Caution.'" We are writing about this film a few pages further on in the column entitled "Culture in the World." To be sure, it would be worthwhile, after adequate announcements informing viewers ahead of time, to show it again, because not everyone had the opportunity to see this interesting film. [Text] [Poznan WPROST in Polish No 17, 26 Apr 87 p 3] 10790

PUBLIC PROSECUTORS MEETING--Jozef Zyta, procurator general of the Polish People's Republic, chaired a meeting of the collegium of Polish prosecutors. The agenda of the meeting included the ratification of the program of operations of general organizational units of the Polish prosecutor's office for 1986-1990, the assessment of the implementation of laws concerning the prevention and combatting manifestations of social pathology, and prosecutors' review practices in view of the requirements of penal policy in 1986. Information was also presented by voivodship prosecutors from Olsztyn and Walbrzych concerning their implementation of the operations program inspired by the resolutions of the Tenth Party Congress. It was emphasized that the Tenth Party Congress had placed before the prosecutor's office responsibilities related to achieving socioeconomic goals, combatting instances of social pathology, and bolstering law and order. Progress in stabilizing processes, as reflected in the decline in crime, justifies the continuation of a penal policy adapted to the threat of criminality, the social sense of justice, and the principle of deepened stratification of criminality. [Text] [Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 30 Apr-1 May 87 p 5] 10790

VIETNAM MEDIA COOPERATION--At the invitation of the PAP chairman, Do Foung, deputy to the general director of the Vietnam Press Agency, VNA, visited Warsaw 22-28 April. The heads of the two agencies discussed the further development of information and technical cooperation. Do Found was received

by Jan Bisztyga, deputy head of the PZPR Central Committee's Propaganda Department and met with the heads of the government press office, as well as PA Interpress and CAF. The guest was given information on the operation of the mass media in Poland. [Text] [Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 30 Apr-1 May 87 p 5] 10790

HIGHER EDUCATION DELEGATION IN CHINA--The People's Republic of China was visited by a delegation of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, headed by Minister Benon Miskiewicz. An agreement for cooperation in higher education between the PRL and the PRC during 1987-1989 was signed. The agreement provides for broadening cooperation in scientific research and increasing the number of exchange students and cooperating institutions of higher education. As of the 1987/1988 academic year, the education of Polish citizens in full-time higher educational institutions of the PRC will be renewed. [Text] [Rzeszow NOWINY in Polish 14 Apr 87 p 2] 1386

CSO: 2600/579

CREATIVE APPLICATION OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM

Bucharest ERA SOCIALISTA in Romanian No 7, 10 Apr 87 pp 8-12

[Article by Univ Prof Dr Petru Panzaru]

[Text] Nicolae Ceausescu said, "In our entire activity we have always proceeded from the fundamental principles of scientific socialism and from the historical and dialectical-materialist revolutionary conception of the world and life. We have been taking steps to apply all of them to Romanian conditions, not by copying anything but by adopting what serves Romania's interests."

The historical period at the close of this century and millennium is certainly characterized by radical and rapid changes in all material and cultural activities. Actually we are in a new stage of human society's development, wherein the social revolutions and the scientific-technical revolution are presenting vital problems concerning ways of developing the production forces, securing social and national progress, and promoting a new international division of labor as well as new economic and political relations among states and nations, all of which call for a new approach and a new way of thinking. Problems of further strengthening and improving socialism are also outstanding among these, a society that is making the most pronounced progress in the history of mankind by creating the first system of free labor, relieved of exploitation and domination of the majority by the minority, class antagonisms, and social injustice and inequity. History has proved that socialism is the only way a society can be built wherein people and nations can enjoy the results of their labor and the wonderful advances of science, culture and socioeconomic progress and can secure their welfare, happiness and real independence and sovereignty. And history has thereby confirmed the viability and vitality of the fundamental principles of scientific socialism, whose creative application has been resulting in constant improvement, development and renovation of socialism and use of its huge potentials for social organization and management and for solving the problems facing every nation and mankind as a whole. Nicolae Ceausescu said, "In speaking now of the need of further improvement and development of socialism, I think we should proceed from the lessons we have learned and from experience and practice in socialist construction, but always bearing in mind the invincible principles of scientific socialism and communism. Socialism can be renovated and improved solely on the basis of those principles and the need of developing and enriching them with the enormous advances of science, practice of socialist construction, and the people's revolutionary effort."

Correlating Experience With the General Trends of Social Development

Creative application and development of Marx' and Engels' revolutionary theory depend upon the subjective element's capacity to examine the actual social situation in its entirety and in its always contradictory development. Rejection of any one-sided view or preconceived "reassuring" and simplistic judgments of the social prospects has proved to be one of the requirements for proper reflection of any aspect of the revolutionary process in theory. Whether it is a question of the theory of revolution and political power or of the whole process of carrying out the principles of scientific socialism, the innovative approach to those problems is crucially urgent and of course any stereotypes or outmoded formulas must always be rejected and avoided, however "traditional" or "classic" they are. It is only the principles and ideas based on correlation with the objective trends of social development that prove truly revolutionary and valuable in the light of the Marxist dialectical method, while any abstract, subjectivist and voluntarist theories that do not allow for the historical processes are unproductive on the level of social thought and practice.

Development and enrichment of the revolutionary theory of scientific socialism in comparison with the changes going on in society and in universal knowledge are of an objective and necessary character stemming partly from the internal nature of Marxist philosophy (by virtue of its critical and revolutionary character itself) and the dialectical-materialist principles and laws, and partly from its direct and permanent tie with practice, experience and the radical changes that have been taking place both in the socioeconomic, political, ideological and cultural situations in the given historical period and in science and human knowledge in general. For that very reason dogmatism, stagnation of thought, its ossification in predetermined patterns, and mechanical copying and transposition of forms and methods unsuited to the conditions in the respective country are profoundly foreign to the very spirit of the historical and dialectical-materialist method of interpreting the natural and social phenomena.

Certainly the new and unprecedented social conditions, phenomena and processes characteristic of our period could not be known to the Marxist classics and consequently they could not study and integrate them in their conceptual theories and systems. Over a century ago socialism had not acquired worldwide dimensions, the movement for national liberation, the dozens of new national states, the technical-scientific revolution with its enormous role, and the global problems vital to mankind (the threat of a nuclear catastrophe, the raw materials and energy crisis, pollution etc.) had not yet appeared, the contradictions in international affairs had not been aggravated as far, and modern means of mass communications as instruments of political power had not appeared and therefore could not affect all internal and international social existence as they do today.

All this indicates the objective necessity of constantly renovating revolutionary theory and ideology so that they will provide the working class and advanced forces everywhere with new answers suited to the problems of contemporary social development in order to create a better and more just world, and with clear guidelines that will light the peoples' way in their struggle for social and national freedom and for progress toward socialism and communism.

Nicolae Ceausescu pointed out that the Marxist-Leninist classics "always regarded the revolutionary theory as a guide to action and a weapon requiring enrichment

and development in step with the constant changes in experience and practice in the social struggle. And a constant effort to keep renovating the revolutionary conception of the proletariat is especially necessary today, in the period of the most radical technical-scientific revolution when human knowledge has acquired unprecedented dimensions and the sciences are contributing more and more new data on the materiality of the world and the dialectical development of society." Meeting this requirement is the attribute of every Communist Party, which is expected to prepare its political program independently, as well as its strategy, tactics and ways and means of revolutionary struggle, on the basis of both the general truths of scientific socialism and the particular national conditions of each country and the interests and aspirations of its own people.

The diversity of particular historical conditions, economic, social, political and cultural, under which the requirements of the general laws of socialist and communist construction arise and are met, the different stages of this construction in each country, the variety of practical ways and means of scientific management of the complex social processes confronting every Communist Party in the exercise of its leadership, and the original solutions to the major problems of ongoing development and improvement of the new society naturally give rise to a wide range of individual experiences and viewpoints, alongside a number of basic opinions and conclusions in common. Accordingly the RCP is unalterably opposed to mechanical copying of practices from anywhere, while advocating an extensive exchange of experience with the socialist countries and with other states as well, drawing conclusions from both the good and the bad in that experience, and accepting what it considers suited to Romanian conditions. Nicolae Ceausescu says, "We shall also make a very consistent effort in the future to adopt the best measures, based on the general laws and world experience, while allowing for the Romanian people's circumstances and way of life. That is the only way we shall secure the success of socialist and communist construction and keep bringing Romania up to new heights of progress and civilization."

Through the noteworthy victories won under party leadership, especially since the historic Ninth Party Congress, in revolutionary social reform and building the new order, through the practical measures and ways and means of organized effort, and through the new conclusions drawn from the specific Romanian conditions in the present period, the RCP and the Romanian people, along with the other communist parties and peoples, are helping to enrich the theoretical and practical treasury of scientific socialism and the revolutionary struggle and to develop the science of socialist and communist construction.

The RCP Program, drafted at Nicolae Ceausescu's suggestion and with his telling contribution, and all the party and state leader's theoretical and practical works reflect the creative development of dialectical-materialist philosophy and the principles of scientific socialism under the specific Romanian conditions and those of the contemporary world. On the basis of these harmoniously integrated theoretical works, rich in original and innovative ideas and theories, on the basis of which Romania's domestic and foreign policies are formulated and applied and which provide scientific answers to the major questions of building the new order under the complex conditions of the present period, it can be stated with certainty that the RCP does not merely "adhere" passively to the principles of scientific socialism but has a conception of its own that accurately reflects the creative and revolutionary scientific spirit of Marxism.

The dimensions and inner recesses of the revolutionary changes in Romania in the last few decades cannot be perceived or understood without observing one of the essential characteristics of the RCP's attitude toward the Marxist theory and the requirements of the general laws of socialist construction and revolution, namely the creative practice of regularly comparing the generally valid principles, truths and laws with the particular social and national conditions of the country in every stage of its historical development. The RCP is guided by the fact that fidelity to the revolutionary theory manifests itself in and through a creative innovating spirit, adjustment to constantly changing conditions, consistency and flexibility, clarity and realism, a critical and self-critical spirit, and the ability to stimulate the people's energies and to organize and unite their active forces.

As it has often been said, the RCP has proved to be a veritable laboratory of theoretical thought, scientific synthesis of the wealth of political experience acquired in the years of socialist revolution and construction, prediction of future development, in-depth investigation of new phenomena and processes on the national and international levels, and development of both innovative theories and original ways and means of specific social action.

Profoundly scientific, objective and fearless analysis of the course taken and the new situations in all their aspects, penetrating examination of the contradictions arising in the course of building the new social system and careful determination of the ways of resolving them, as well as determination of the requirements for development, the forms of organization and procedures suited to Romania's national and social conditions, and the historical requirements of the stage we are in are characteristic features of the RCP's creative theoretical work. Its outlook is profoundly hostile to any dogmas or canons and any theoretical and political inflexibility, a fact that has been enabling it to devise productive and viable measures for the nation's accelerated progress on the path of socialism, to staunchly defend national sovereignty and independence, and to enhance Romania's active contribution and political prestige on the world level.

The whole period of socialist construction in Romania and especially the last 22 years graphically illustrate the fact that in its theoretical and practical approach to the problems of building the new order the party has always considered the vast changes that have taken place both in Romania and on the international level and the new gains of science and knowledge in general. The RCP attaches great theoretical and practical value to the consistent policy whereby, as Nicolae Ceausescu recently said, we "must always consider both our own experience and that of other countries and peoples, but we must reject any stereotypes and any copying or mechanical transposition of forms and methods of organization or forms that no longer suit or do not suit the actual Romanian conditions. We have believed and believe that if we are to be true revolutionaries we must take a firm stand against dogmas and all that is old and outmoded and extensively promote the new and the innovative revolutionary spirit in all activities." Experience and socioeconomic development have clearly demonstrated the correctness of the RCP's activity and the methods of socialist construction in accordance with the internal conditions and the will of the Romanian people."

Romania has progressed through several historical stages since the Antifascist and Anti-Imperialist Revolution for Social and National Liberation, from bourgeois-landowner society with pronounced feudal remnants to the fully developed

socialist society. Those years saw a development of the production forces, science, culture and the people's general standard of living and civilization which, in the past, took some states centuries. A course was taken that graphically illustrates the superiority of the socialist system and demonstrates that it is only when the people become truly free and masters of their fate that they can determine their socioeconomic development as they wish, such reforms can be instituted and the inherited backwardness of centuries can be remedied.

The Romanian people's noteworthy progress under party leadership in developing the nation and raising the general standard of civilization in the 43 years since the victory of the Antifascist and Anti-Imperialist Revolution for Social and National Liberation is telling evidence of this. The 1986 industrial output was 115 times greater than that of 1944, while the agricultural output increased by about 6 times. The social product increased by 27 times in the same period and the national income increased by 32 times. In a brief historical period Romania was converted to a strong industrial-agrarian country in full progress, providing the entire people with living and working conditions among the best, further strengthening the nation's material and cultural potential and accordingly raising the standard of civilization and consolidating national sovereignty and independence. As Nicolae Ceausescu said, "We can really take pride in what we have accomplished in the years of socialist construction and in the way we have applied the standards of scientific socialism and its principles, objective laws and general truths to the actual Romanian conditions."

The notable progress made by Romania and other socialist countries as well in the years of socialism bears out the superiority of the new social system and the fact that socialism is not only a reflection of historic progress but also a powerful factor for stimulating and accelerating it. That fact is particularly noteworthy because most of the present socialist states, although they appeared successively in different periods and circumstances, were countries with low or medium levels of development of the production forces in comparison with the countries wherein the classic bourgeois revolutions had taken place much earlier. Socialism accordingly asserted its potential not only as "social therapy" against the evils of capitalism and the lags caused by the precapitalist systems but also as a socioeconomic structure that lays the foundations of a new and higher type of progress and civilization.

The socialist and communist kind of material and cultural civilization is under full construction in Romania and in other socialist countries as well. Of course there are still many difficulties, both objective and subjective, to be overcome because the new order is the first modern civilization based on joint social ownership of the production means and the principles of transfer of the social management functions to the hands of the working masses. Socialism is the first civilization wherein work and not property is the sign of wealth, wherein social justice, equality and equity and not stratification and polarization of society are its directions of development, and wherein the state is in the service of the masses and man becomes the end instead of the means of all activities and social relations, from economic to intellectual.

The harmonious allocation of the production forces throughout the country and the elimination of underdeveloped areas and regions and of situations, still perpetuated today even in the advanced capitalist countries, where "Every state has its North and South," as one sociologist put it, are signs of the real progress produced by the socialist production method and way of life.

The socialist kind of society is also characterized by planning, organization and coordination of the various aspects of social existence, technical-material and intellectual, cultural and moral, and subordination of accomplishments in material civilization to a humanistic ideal of all-around development of the personality. Production subordinated to the collective needs and humanistically rational consumption governed by a scientific view of nature and the human condition replace production for profit and private profit in a revolutionary way. By virtue of their scientific character the principles of socialism require consistency and coherence and necessitate correct action flowing from the inner logic of the new order, which is based upon the new and uniform nature of the political power and the political system, of socialist ownership and the system of planned economy, and of the whole institutional and ideological superstructure. Summing up all these features, the RCP Program states that "The essentials for socialism are and always will be the nature of the political power and production relations, transfer of the political power into the hands of the workers, institution of socialist ownership of the main production means, abolition of exploitation of man by man, and application of the socialist principles of distribution."

These essential features of socialism form the criteria for judging the actual existence of the new order in a given society, acquiring the quality and value of generally valid principles or laws for dialectical analysis of the transition to socialism. Of course the sum of these features as well as the distinctive characteristics of each one are not to be regarded as formulations or generalizations in themselves or as a systematic catalogue of processes, phenomena, institutions, principles and relations with invariable forms and contents, but as existing only in and through a great variety and diversity specifically determined by the particular historical, national, economic, political and cultural conditions in each and every society and country. The realities of socialism in Romania clearly and graphically reflect the general characteristics of the new order and the unity of the general and particular in the socialist and communist reform of Romanian society.

Need To Know the Interaction of the Objective Social Laws

It is also vitally important to understand and consider the operation of the objective social laws and especially the interaction of the general objective laws with those peculiar to socialism. Nicolae Ceausescu cast a new light on this question in his Speech at the Expanded Plenum of the RCP Central Committee in June 1982 when he said, "It is a well-known fact that a number of laws generally valid for all society have existed and operated in all previous social systems, and that they have contributed to the development and advancement of the peoples' and nations' common awareness and to the general development of science, culture and human awareness. But they have always been used by the exploiting classes for their own purposes in order to strengthen and maintain their domination of the other social classes and the masses. Once the working class appeared upon the scene of history a new and revolutionary idea was developed about the organization of society and social relations and the transition to a system of social and national justice without oppressor classes." Inasmuch as the socialist system produces radical changes in the base and superstructure of society, it is clear that the operation of its own developmental laws will show important distinctive features, and in-depth study of them is a permanent objective of the Communist Party as a leading political force, as well as that of research in the social sciences.

The dialectics of the development of the new order also require study and understanding of the interaction of the social laws with the objective laws of nature, since the man-society-nature relationships are now acquiring new dimensions unknown in Marx' time. It is enough to recall in this connection the serious implications of the contemporary technical-scientific revolution, the ecological problems confronting a constantly growing world population, the grave dangers of the armaments race, especially the nuclear one, etc. in order to realize the necessity of renovating our ideas and opinions about man's evolution and social progress under the present conditions.

Of course a creative approach to questions in connection with the operation of the objective social laws cannot be an abstract one but must be as specific as possible if practical conclusions in support of social activity and a new quality of life and work are to be drawn on that basis. From this viewpoint researchers in the social sciences still owe us the most specific and multidisciplinary answers possible to such questions as how the laws of social development operate and through what intermediaries are their objective requirements met. This brings out the critical roles of the human factor, of scientific knowledge in close correlation with social practice, and of purposeful united action of the masses under party leadership in accordance with those requirements. Without considering the fact that the objective social laws operate through activities and relationships among people, it is impossible to understand the inner mechanisms (especially the psychosocial ones) of social determinism and the dynamics of social-historical development. Social experience has shown that the purely theoretical appeal to objective laws and claims to omniscience as to their requirements do not solve the practical problems of social progress. As Nicolae Ceausescu said, "There are no models, laws or truths that can operate automatically under any circumstances, and the subjective element, the party, the working class and the people, must await the effects of these objective laws and truths. However good they are, they cannot produce results unless men, the RCP and the people, know how to use them and to secure the nation's steady progress on the path of socialism and communism by proceeding from them."

Study, knowledge and purposeful application of the economic laws and their internal interaction with the dialectical laws of socialist society's development to the Romanian conditions are major aims of Nicolae Ceausescu's theoretical works. On the basis of the primary role of socialist ownership of the production means (the state and cooperative workers' joint ownership), the factor that determines the nature of the whole Romanian system, the party secretary general formulated the principle that this historic form of ownership "is one of the fundamental and controlling objective laws as compared with other objective economic laws." This profoundly scientific approach throws a new light on the interaction of all the objective laws and determines in theory the ways to improve the socialist production method, the social and production forces and relations and the new socioeconomic mechanism in close correlation with the principle of self-management and self-administration and with more intensive development of the state's role in planning, organization and uniform management of all socioeconomic activity on the basis of the Unified National Plan. By its very nature and internal laws, socialism is incompatible with haphazard, chance development, whereas party management and exercise of the socialist state's functions provide for purposeful application of the economic laws and coordination of all the objective and subjective factors for socioeconomic progress.

The rapid development of modern production forces throughout the country and the considerable growth of Romania's economic potential in the last 20 years are inseparable from the formulation and consistent application of a series of principles concerning the need and the ways of building a strong and modern material base on the basis of socialist industrialization and assimilation of the latest advances of the scientific-technical revolution as well as the historic policy of allocating a large portion (one-third) of the national income to the development fund, which has been providing for expanded reproduction, general social progress and the Romanian socialist nation's free and independent future.

In defining the aims of the present stage of Romanian society's development, the RCP and its secretary general are presenting a dialectical and innovative view of building the new order wherein socialism is seen not as something finished but as a whole process with objectively necessary stages and contradictions that must be discovered and resolved promptly. Therefore in devising the strategy for building the fully developed socialist society and for the advance toward communism, the party heavily emphasizes the idea and the action of improving social organization, social production relations and human relations as well as consistent application of the principles of socialist ethics and justice to all social activities. The vitality of socialism's development justifies the conclusion that its improvement is a particular category of the dialectics of the new society, a category that sums up its structural superiority and its own internal potentials.

In Romanian socialist society improvement is a reality in process as well as an aspiration and an operational program with precisely defined aims and means of attaining them. This program was clearly formulated in the documents of the 13th Party Congress. Careful study of them reveals the definite, comprehensive and dynamic character that the RCP lends to development and self-improvement of all society and of all elements in the Romanian social system engaged in the task of building the fully developed socialist society.

Socialist society is a radically new and profoundly innovating system with objective potentials for meeting the requirements of social-human progress. But those potentials are not realized automatically or instantaneously by the blind action of the social laws, but by a purposeful effort on the part of all the active forces of society, thoroughly organized and rationally planned in stages. In realizing the unlimited potentials for improvement inherent in the very nature of socialist society, the decisive part is played by the general policy and the political-organizational work of the RCP, the leading force in the whole task of socialist construction, the vital center of the whole nation, and the catalyst of its energies.

The party policy is the essential factor for regular transformation of the objective possibilities for regulating and "ruling" the social processes and of the potentials and sources for demonstrating the the superiority of the socialist system in actual living reality. The revolutionary party, armed with the theory and method of historical and dialectical materialism for interpreting social phenomena and with the principles of scientific socialism, has the task of selecting out of the many objective possibilities for social development those that best suit the specific-historical conditions and the aspirations of the working class and the other workers in each country and that of planning and implementing the programs to solve the vital problems of society in the course of revolutionary reform of its base and superstructure. As Nicolae Ceausescu concluded, "In this

new, historic stage an even greater role is played by the RCP, whose mission it is to unite all of the nation's efforts in one direction, to stimulate all social activity, and to manage construction of the fully developed socialist society and the advance toward communism scientifically, on the basis of creative application of the universally valid laws creatively applied to Romania's particular social-historical conditions."

The exercise and development of the party's leadership in society does not mean a plurality of privileges but a plurality of enormous political and moral responsibilities for the entire nation's future, for the efficiency of all units, institutions, bodies and social organizations, and for the entire people's unity and solidarity in the common efforts to achieve fully developed socialism, to defend and consolidate national sovereignty and independence, and to enhance Romania's contribution to the cause of socialism, democracy, social progress and peace throughout the world.

The RCP's constant effort to develop democracy in its own ranks is enhancing its role as an active and persevering promotor of democracy throughout all society. The last 20 years of the party's existence have been characterized by productive progress in institutionalizing some original forms of democratic development and of effective worker participation in decision-making on all levels. The facts refute the theory of Marxism's adversaries that there is an alleged "contradiction" between the party's leadership (or its development) and the development of democracy in socialism. On the contrary, the Romanian political system is distinguished by the very fact that development of the party's leadership is accompanied by enhancement of socialist democracy, expansion and improvement of the organizational structure for the workers' active and effective participation in social management in the form of workers self-management, wide-scale involvement of the broadest masses in the task of socialist construction, and encouragement of their creative initiative and powers in every way.

The broad revolutionary process and development of workers democracy require continuing development of the party's political leadership in all activities and of its revolutionary strength and courage, as well as its increasingly intensive advancement as the vital center of the entire nation, which radiates and will always radiate the wisdom to mobilize the entire people and to stimulate the nation's creative powers on the way to communism in Romania. Nicolae Ceausescu says, "There can be no self-management or revolutionary democracy without the party's leadership as the standard bearer and, I repeat, the vital center that is to radiate all of the Romanian nation's creative energies!"

Bringing out the growing role of the purposeful, organizational, ideological and political-educational factors for synchronized attainment of all the aims of building the fully developed socialist society is an important contribution of Nicolae Ceausescu's to the development of revolutionary theory and practice. The active role of those factors and especially that of the party and its policy follow from the changing and highly complicated character of all social activities, from the need of resolving any contradictions in order to forestall social antagonisms or conflicts, and from the operation of the dialectical law of conflict between the new and the old as a motive force for social development. The growing role of the purposeful subjective factors also follows from the continuity of the revolutionary process and from the objective fact that the revolutionary process and the socialist revolution continue and must be continually developed in conformity with each historical stage, both in the field of production

forces and in that of reforming the social structure, social and production relations, social management and people's way of life. Nicolae Ceausescu says, "The revolutionary process will still be operative throughout the whole construction of socialism, the fully developed socialist society, and communist society."

The concept of socialist revolution is enriched and renovated in this way. It reflects not only the period of the "battle on the barricades" to do away with the exploiting classes and the repressive bourgeois state organization, but also the long and difficult period, fraught with contradictions, of readjusting all socioeconomic, institutional and intellectual activity to the principles of socialism and later of communism, and the period of intensive and balanced development of the production forces but also of formation, development and promotion of the revolutionary humanistic values of socialist awareness.

The party's active approach to difficulties, obstacles, defects and errors, indicative of its maturity, responsibility and political-moral strength as a government party, and its militance against tendencies toward complacency and self-satisfaction are important aspects of the constructive and creative revolutionary spirit that inspires and powers the whole policy of socialist construction in Romania. Guided by the principles of Marxist dialectics and scientific socialism with which it fully studies the actual conditions in their contradictory entirety and with their good and bad points, the party concentrates in its economic, social and cultural policies the trends that bring to the surface of society all that is new, vigorous and healthy and cause the old elements in socioeconomic relations and in people's attitudes as well to be regularly eliminated and overcome. Frank and timely disclosure of the defects and errors cannot detract from the great progress and successes that have been achieved. On the contrary, it demonstrates the RCP's responsibility and worth and its ability to take firm and concerted action against all that is negative and dysfunctional in order to expedite steady social progress. Nicolae Ceausescu said, "Under the party's leadership the Romanian people have succeeded in overcoming and eliminating various negative conditions and securing Romania's steady progress and implementation of the socialist principles of ownership and of work and life."

As the RCP Ideological Program mentions, the difficulties in the task of building the new society, a task that is being performed under far from ideal conditions, are not due to "too much socialism" but to disregard of some of its fundamental principles. That is why it is out of the question under any circumstances to improve socialism by looking backward and suggesting a so-called socialism of the market and development of small private ownership, because large or small that is capitalist by nature and incompatible with socialist ownership, state and cooperative ownership of the entire people, which is the foundation of the whole structure of the new order.

The RCP closely and consistently associates the nation's socialist and communist future with consistent but creative application of the principles of scientific socialism to the Romanian conditions and to those of the present period. This fundamental policy was formulated synthetically and in great depth in Nicolae Ceausescu's speech of 25 January 1987: "We have excellent programs and magnificent aims. They are based upon the vast previous achievements and upon the revolutionary conception of scientific socialism, which is the only far-sighted guide to steady progress toward socialism under the present circumstances, when

there are a great many difficulties, when there are storms and many clouds, when you can easily go astray, and when you can catch sight of a certain clearing somewhere and not realize that it is an illusion, so to speak, an optical distortion and not the right way to communism in this turbulent sea of great changes. It is only with a clear scientific guide that we can secure steady progress. And we must make every effort to develop and strengthen the RCP's revolutionary conception and to lend new dimensions to the scientific socialist conception of the world and life by basing these enormous gains in all fields on the revolutionary conception of the world and life, which is actually scientific socialism and communism and has been from the start."

The new life of the Romanian people and all the nation's citizens of all nationalities and Romania's new place in the world of today are inseparable from what we would call the "tireless creative spirit" of the RCP and its secretary general, from receptiveness and sensitivity to the unprecedented phenomena and trends arising in the process of building the fully developed socialist society and in the course of the great changes and confrontations in the contemporary world, and from the constant effort to go on securing not only the correct solutions to current problems but also a clear perspective on Romania's socioeconomic, scientific and cultural development on the bright path of communism.

5186

CSO: 2700/194

SLUSOVICE DEVELOPED CORN ADVANTAGES DISCUSSED

Bratislava EKONOMIKA POLNOHOSPODARSTVA in Czech No 4, 1987 pp 180-183

[Article by docent Eng Frantisek Trnka, candidate for doctor of science, and Eng Frantisek Manasek, Slusovice United Agricultural Cooperative Agrokombinat: "Experiences Operating a Production System for Corn Raising"]

[Text] Relationships between the participants in the national economic capital replacement process can take various forms. One possible mode of co-operation between enterprises is integration. There does not yet exist a single definition of this concept. In our view it is a form of interenterprise cooperation that should have benefits for the national economy as well as for the participants. This article will present the example of interenterprise co-operation that has been under way for a number of years now between the Slusovice United Agricultural Cooperative Agrokombinat [JZD AK] and other firms in the growing of corn.

Integrative cooperation is often criticized for putting the integrator in a monopoly position, from which it can dictate to the other participants the conditions of cooperation, allowing itself to enjoy the greatest advantages from it. The problem with this is that the integrator does not in fact enjoy a monopoly position. It has neither a monopoly on production assets, nor are the cooperating enterprises forced in any way to sign contracts related to cooperation. They do so only if it to their advantage.

There does exist a situation, however, in which a few monopoly suppliers handle most of the deliveries of agricultural implements to farmers. These deliveries are almost never on time, nor do they often consist of the proper equipment. This leads to irreplaceable losses that show up in year end performance figures. These suppliers have no economic incentives to make timely deliveries of quality equipment that will improve performance. At the same time it is well known that the cultural requirements for specific crops must be followed to the letter if yields are to be optimized. We therefore consider the development of production systems and their integration to be the way for agriculture to improve and to break the above, undesirable monopoly position.

Integration as applied to plant production, often referred to as a crop system, is defined as the provision of all necessary material and technical resources for the cultivation of a given crop and its cultivars according to scientific

and technical requirements for this cultivation, including guaranteed yields. This comprehensive crop raising is implemented on the basis of integration contracts; these are economically binding for both the integrator and integrating enterprise.

The crop systems developed by the Slusovice JZD are based on successful systems from abroad and are in conformity with the resolutions of the Eighth CPCZ Central Committee Plenum of 1983 and the Set of Measures of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the CSR for accelerating the practical application of R&D progress.

Crop systems based on integration are in their infancy in the CSSR. Some elements of a crop system are provided in most enterprises through subcontracting organizations (Oseva, the Zdenek Nejedly Plant in Nachod, Agrozet, and others) and the comprehensive crop raising is usually done by simply publishing cultivation methodologies without any material support. Society loses a significant portion of the genetic potential of the crops and cultivars if they are not attended to properly throughout their growth.

The Slusovice JZD, after positive internal experiences with the raising of hybrid grain corn under unusual conditions, has been marketing on a contractual basis corn growing agreements since 1981.

Corn raised in an integrated format is mainly for grain, but in dual harvesting can be for silage purposes as well. The cultivation techniques have been fully tested for different natural conditions, seeds of quality hybrids are available, as are the necessary chemicals. Machinery is provided for soil preparation, sowing, the application of chemicals, and for harvesting. Laboratory services are included and inspections are made periodically to assure that procedures are being followed, and schedules adhered to.

The mutual material and financial arrangements are negotiated through a contract.

KSL - The Corn Growing System of the Slusovice JZD AK

The systematic cultivation of field crops is a modern technique that guarantees increased yields and product quality, improved labor productivity and reduced costs per unit of production.

The corn growing system deals comprehensively with the entire cycle from fall tilling to pre-sowing soil preparation, planting, fertilizing, protection, and the harvest. It guarantees the grower deliveries of the necessary equipment of the right quality and on time.

Employees of the Slusovice JZD AK began developing this system for growing corn in 1980. A number of research centers both in the CSSR and abroad participated in the project.

Several foreign firms were also invited to participate. The latest research findings were incorporated into the program. In a full series of tests a large number of hybrid strains of corn were tested, of both Czechoslovak and foreign

origin, and a number of agricultural implements were also tested. The result of these exhaustive, precise tests was the development of a modern system for growing corn incorporating advanced machinery, highly productive genetic material, and the most modern agricultural techniques.

The systematic growing of corn was first conducted in the CSSR in 1982 on a space of 10,000 hectares. This area under cultivation has gradually increased to the point today where it is 20,000 hectares spread over 100 agricultural enterprises. This is 10 percent of the total area sown in corn in the CSSR.

Results to date of the systematic raising of corn have demonstrated such a system's economic advantages. During the period of time it has been operational, per hectare yields of grain corn have increased from 4.5 tons to 6 tons currently, and have been as high as 7 tons per hectare when conditions are favorable. Truly exceptional yields can run in the vicinity of 10 tons per hectare.

The KSL corn raising system is not a closed system. It is constantly being improved to incorporate the latest findings of science and technology. Testing is run on an ongoing basis of new, improved hybrid corn strains, advances in agricultural implements and chemicals are kept track of and utilized, once their efficiency has been proven.

Conditions for Implementing the KSL System

Understandably, the KSL system was developed for a particular growing region, and is not therefore directly transferrable to all other areas. To achieve the maximum impact one must choose a growing area that meets the following conditions:

--total temperature during vegetative period of at least	2,300° C
--minimum rain during vegetative period	350 millimeters
--soil type	medium dense loam
--minimum humus content	1.3 percent
--soil pH	over 6
--gradient of plot	maximum of 10 percent

This is not to say that the KSL system cannot be used under other conditions than these. Before doing so, however, tests would have to be made of the proposed corn cultivar to be planted and soil working techniques would have to be verified. Once such tests have been performed the KSL system can be adapted to other conditions.

Another, no less important condition of this system is the unconditional compliance with technological discipline and agro-technical schedules for the performance of individual operations. Unless these conditions are complied with, we cannot guarantee the performance of the elements of the system.

For the system to be economically advantageous and produce the desired yields the plots on which the corn is grown must be concentrated into specific blocks. The optimal size is a plot of 500 hectares. To simplify the management and

control of this corn growing system it is suggested that 10 such units be grouped within 50-70 kilometers from a central facility.

Nor can one ignore the harvest operation, and the storing and processing of the grain. The equipment for storing and processing should correspond to the technique and scope of the actual harvest (grain, CCM, LKS).

Materials Needed to Implement KSL System

The material requirements of the KSL system may be broken down into several groups which are interrelated, namely:

- machines and equipment,
- seed,
- fertilizer,
- pesticides,
- laboratories and computer equipment.

We will discuss each in turn.

Machinery and Equipment

An entire set of high performance, highly sophisticated agricultural machinery and equipment is needed to meet the agro-technical demands of this system. The basic components of this system are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Set of Machinery and Equipment for the KSL System

<u>Operation</u>	<u>Machine</u>	<u>Number Needed</u>	<u>Country of origin</u>
Spreading manure	10 ton manure spreader	5	CSSR
Ploughing	5-PHX-35 plough	2	CSSR
Levelling soil surface	PB-4-82 disc harrow	2	CSSR
	heavy drag harrows	2	CSSR
Preplanting preparation	heavy duty harrows	2	CSSR
	rotary harrows	2	CSSR
Liquid fertilizer	Alleys sprayer	1	Belgium
application	10 cubic meter tank	1	CSSR
Solid fertilizer			
application	RCW-4 spreader	1	Poland
Herbicide application	PN-2000 sprayer	2	CSSR
	Pemix mixing equipment	1	Hungary
Planting	Becker planter with insecti- cide applicator	1	FRG
	Z-12045 wheeled tractor	1	CSSR
Insecticide application	helicopter (for 10 units)	1	USSR
Harvest of grain and stems	KSKU-6 harvester	2	USSR
Transport of grain	10 ton truck	6	CSSR
Transport of stems	60 cubic meter highvolume truck	6	CSSR

Almost the entire set of equipment needed for the KSL system comes from socialist countries. The exceptions are the Becker planter and the Allays sprayer, which must be purchased for hard currency in the FRG and in Belgium respectively.

Tractors rated at 50-180 kilowatts provide the power for the system. To function optimally the following tractors should be available:

- 2 with power of 180 kilowatts
- 5 with power of 120 kilowatts
- 6 with power of 50 kilowatts.

Seeds

In addition to precise agricultural practices the foundation of high yields are productive hybrid corn strains with aggenetic potential of 8-10 tons of dried grain per hectare yields. To assure these yields and the gradual ripening of the corn it is necessary to use a minimum of 2-3 hybrids of corn per unit of the KSL system.

In 1985-1986, the Slusovice JZD AK conducted yield tests in the Kharkov oblast of the USSR. These tests indicated that the following strains would be appropriate for this area and other areas with similar climatic conditions: CE-420 (CSSR); Mona (Hungary); and DEA (Hungary).

The mix of hybrids for given conditions is not set in stone. It is evaluated just about annually and reevaluated based on yield tests in given areas.

Fertilizers

Another factor in achieving high corn yields is adequate fertilization using both natural and artificial fertilizers. The KSL corn growing system assumes that cattle manure will be applied either directly under the corn or directly under the crop preceding the corn. The user of the system is responsible for applications of fertilizer in the amount of 50 tons per hectare.

Applications of net nutrients from artificial fertilizers per hectare must equal 550 kilograms of net nutrients; as 150 kilograms of nitrogen, 200 kilograms of phosphorus pentoxide [P_2O_5] and 200 kilograms of potassium oxide [K_2O]. The mix of fertilizers is important; half of them should be ammoniacal, and half should be nitrate fertilizers.

The objective of the technical approach of the KSL system is to maximize the use of liquid fertilizers consistent with high productivity, quality and ease of work.

The user of the system must procure the above noted amounts of artificial fertilizers from his own resources. The KSL system provides precise information on the distribution of fertilizer applications, the timing of the applications and techniques for subsequent applications of fertilizer.

Pesticides

Intensive agricultural production is not possible these days without high quality, effective herbicides and insecticides, which keep the fields healthy and weed free. The supplier provides the amounts of these chemicals as listed in Table 2. Because these products are being developed very rapidly it is possible that during use this product mix will be changed.

Table 2. Pesticide Applications on 500 Hectare Plot Under KSL System

<u>Name of Pesticide</u>	<u>Amount (kilograms, liters)</u>	<u>Country of origin</u>
Zeazin	1,000	CSSR
Eradicane*	3,000	Austria
Lasso*	3,000	Belgium
Dursban**	5,000	Spain
Bathurin 82-S**	10,000	CSSR

* Either Eradicane or Lasso will be used, based on evaluation of soil and climatic conditions.

** These amounts will be used to treat entire area. Incidence will determine how much area is actually treated.

Laboratory and Computers

Knowledge of the nutritional content of the soil and of the plants during vegetation is essential for proper fertilization. This information is provided by agricultural laboratories built by the supplier at the place of cultivation. The customer provides the foundation, electrical and water services. We provide the structure, the necessary furniture and laboratory instruments, glassware and chemicals.

We also provide a TNS microcomputer to aid in analysis of the data from these laboratory tests. Our package includes a program for optimizing fertilization and in some cases supplementary programs.

We suggest that one laboratory and microcomputer be ordered for every 10 KSL units, i.e., for every 5,000 hectares of corn to be cultivated.

Nonmaterial Deliveries

These include deliveries of written materials and the provision of technical assistance.

Written Materials

The consumer receives a detailed description of corn growing technology including the qualitative guidelines for all the necessary operations, agro-technical deadlines, techniques for fertilization and protection. The customer

also receives a complete notebook for the quality collection of samples and conducting all the necessary analyses, and directions for following these up with further analyses not directly related to corn cultivation. This notebook contains the program for optimal fertilization and the manuals for all the agricultural implements.

Technical Assistance

We provide one expert for every 5,000 hectares of corn under cultivation. This person will assist with the organization of field work, the setting up of the agricultural machinery, training of personnel, controlling the quality of the work that is performed, controlling the health of the plants, setting deadlines and amounts for applications of fertilizers and pesticides, monitoring losses at harvest time, inspecting the condition of the machinery upon delivery as well as the equipment provided by the customer. The expert will also participate in writing the order for spare parts for the second year of operation. The agreement provides that this person will set up and evaluate the results of the yield tests used to improve the KSL system. This person keeps a diary of the work that is performed.

Technical assistance includes the training of employees for laboratory and computer operator work. This training takes place in the training center at the Slusovice JZD AK.

Advantages of the KSL System

The main advantage of the KSL system is that it provides all components of the production process, from the equipment to the quality seeds and chemicals. We guarantee that deliveries will be complete and on time. The customer receives state of the art technology and knowledge of the entire field of corn cultivation, which is advancing rapidly. We thus provide all the conditions for high grain yields as long as agro-technical standards are complied with, fertilizer is applied properly and so long as the climatic and soil conditions are as specified above. The guarantee cannot be exercised if there is an extreme year weather wise. We guarantee that all pertinent R&D findings will be incorporated into the system as long as the customer operates according to the KSL system. The KSL system is one of the most highly developed forms of general contracting systems.

The general contracting system has been developed in Czechoslovak agriculture for several developmental activities. It is not, however, generally tied to the obligation comprehensively to assure the requirements of all primary agricultural producers, and is not coordinated. Supervisory and service organizations have a lot of authority in a number of activities but bear little responsibility for the final results of production.

At the present time several agricultural enterprises have evolved into economically powerful entities with high output, labor productivity and well organized production. They have proven capable of making use of R&D findings and providing services to other agricultural enterprises. They may also be developed further through the purposeful expansion of preproduction and post-production stages. In addition to this these economically stronger enterprises may, through integrational agreements, assist in improving the performance of mediocre and weaker enterprises by offering them guaranteed, turnkey, fully supported production systems. This type of organization will increase the overall agricultural output of the CSSR without any additional investments by the state.

PRICE RESTRUCTURING SHOULD 'ACCURATELY REFLECT' ACTUAL VALUES

Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Slovak No 18, 1987 p 4

[Article by docent Eng Rudolf Filkus, candidate for doctor of science, and Eng Marian Nemec, candidate for doctor of science, Bratislava branch of Central Institute for National Economic Research: "On Making Valuation Mechanisms, Mainly Prices, More Accurate"]

[Text] Making sure that valuation mechanisms are accurate, in particular prices, is one of the essential preconditions for restructuring the economic system according to the document, Principles for Restructuring the Economic System of the CSSR [hereafter Principles]. The authors are aware that the process of making prices more accurately reflect value will be the most difficult of all to implement.

All authors who write for the pages of HOSPODARSKE NOVINY on questions of efficiency mention pricing in one way or another. These views on how we ought to proceed in the area of pricing may be divided into two basic groups. One group advocates retaining basically the same pricing system that is currently in place, and making prices more accurate by obtaining more accurate cost and profit figures to be used as the basis for price formation. The other group advocates implementing another concept of price formation, one that involves all the resources of the economic system, and which is outlined in Principles. This article will identify us as belonging to this second group.

If we assume that the entire economic system should be oriented to improving overall efficiency, then it would be desirable to each of its components, and in this case prices, could be structured so as to facilitate this increased efficiency. We therefore consider it a top priority that prices reflect efficiency enhancing social standards that define socially approved constraints in the management of capital assets, labor, R&D progress, the costs of environmental protection, and realistic rents. This is a precondition for prices to serve as a national standard, a criterion of efficiency. Prices must also reflect social utility, i.e. the relationship of production to social needs.

Impact on the Public Interest

We consider optimal prices to be those which not only reflect the true costs of production but which also relate those costs some way to utility. They must be equilibrium prices that represent a criterion imposed from without, in the sense of a specific public standard.

Assuming that prices have become an integral part of the plan and can exert an influence on it, efficiency-enhancing and normative planning requires, among other things, that prices reflect the objectives that society wishes to achieve. In the language of Principles, this involves "the requisite efficiency of production factors." In other words, prices must reflect public objectives for both capital asset utilization and labor force allocation (as well as meeting standards for transfer payments).

Every cost-accounting entity (producer), in addition to meeting its obligation of transferring a given quota of resources to the state, must also meet its production costs and generate enough additional resources to meet its internal needs. Producing only enough resources to meet the requirements of the national owner and to cover production costs is inadequate in terms of meeting internal needs for overall capital replacement. Enough additional resources must be produced to cover these internal needs. Producers must therefore, either in their cost calculations or in their selling price, build in enough profit so that, once the transfers are paid to the state and production costs taken care of, there will be enough resources left to cover internal needs. This is also necessary because the customer to whom the producer sells his goods is also frequently a producer, and needs to know his costs so he can set his prices accordingly.

Ideally, producers and customers will get together and negotiate a price which should then be incorporated into the 5-year national economic plan. Obviously the process of arriving at this planned price will be much more complicated than the example presented here, which has been simplified for clarity.

Real Merit-Based Differentiation

During the negotiations between producer and consumer over price, the profit included in the final price cannot be a definite amount set ahead of time by the center, but rather will be the final difference between costs and selling price, a residual quantity. Just as value cannot be put together from its components, but may be broken down into constituent elements, so a selling price cannot be simply the sum of production costs and a standard profit margin, but rather will reflect the true utility of the product. As such it also needs to reflect not only labor costs but also socially necessary costs. Given the existence of standard transfer payments which are tied to the minimum revenues that should be generated from the use of given amounts of capital stock and labor, a standard price can actually become a true measure of the merit of a cost-accounting entity. In other words, unified efficiency criteria and long range standards, as these are outlined in Principles, may serve as mechanisms for accurate

differentiation between the performance of given cost-accounting entities only if profits included in prices represent a true residual, not a fixed quantity.

Naturally, when planning prices at the macroeconomic level one cannot avoid the question of defining an optimal level of profit in prices beforehand (in selected individual prices as well as in relative prices and price levels). Policy in this area will be derived from a baseline assessment of the needs and potential of our economy and will take the form, in the cost-accounting sphere, of either a directive (the price of raw materials, materials, selected consumption items, etc.) or an orientational indicator (a price level). Such policy, in the context of the iterative process of establishing the national economic plan, will be subject to correction based on the results of supplier-consumer negotiations at the cost-accounting level. The setting of profits *ex ante* in this system has a different purpose than previously has been the case. In the restructured system it will both reflect and result from the dialectic relationship between the center and the microeconomic sphere in the process of plan formulation.

The rationale for setting a profit level in a standard price is that we want to be able to differentiate the true merit of a given cost-accounting entity, i.e. that which derives from its own efforts to improve labor productivity, in contrast to improvements that stem simply from changes in the capital stock per employee ratio, i.e. which comes from public resources. To do so we must set standard prices that reflect the minimal revenues that must be generated from the use of a given mix of capital and labor and a minimum of resources that must be transferred to society to compensate for the use of these production assets. This will assure that the resources transferred to public coffers represent minimum efficiency standards that have been arrived at over a long period of time. The difference, then, between the actual selling price and costs (which include transfer payment obligations), which is profit, will therefore measure the merit of a given cost-accounting entity in its conduct of production operations in a context defined by society as a whole.

Basic Concepts

Our conception of the objectives of the pricing system is based on two ideas:

The first is that there must be a fundamental change in the role of prices in plan formulation. In particular, plan prices must set standards for the formation of planned economic proportions. The basic concept is that price, in its role as a unified public standard, must become the decisive mechanism for the gradual integration of the material and valuational aspects of the plan. Prices must serve as the yardstick for determining plan equilibrium and also provide incentives for improving the efficiency of the capital replacement process.

The second concept is that optimal prices must become the decisive criterion for administering and evaluating the activities of cost-accounting organizations in plan implementation. Under the current system of limited price

involvement at the plan formulation stage, price developments have constantly served to deepen the rift between wholesale, retail, foreign trade prices, and even procurement prices. The differences that currently exist between wholesale, retail and procurement prices on the domestic market have resulted in the development of different units of measurement for calculating production efficiency, as well as different scales of monetary values within the national economy. For practical purposes this makes accurate production efficiency calculations impossible, and therefore makes calculations of the return on foreign trade activities suspect at best. The differential indicator, in this environment, has very limited value as either an absolute or even relative indicator. This is even true for products that have no retail price, because a wholesale price that is not a final selling price is not a full price, but only a component of that price. Sales tax is included in retail prices, but its comprehensiveness varies. The relationship between wholesale and retail prices differ from case to case.

Under these conditions it is very difficult accurately to evaluate the desirability of substituting one domestic resource for another in a given manufacturing process, or the merits of including imported resources into a given process.

The limited current role for prices at the stage of plan formulation as a rule also complicates their desirable integration into the plan implementation process. The subsequent recalculation of a plan in terms of new prices, which is what must happen, inevitably affects the very structure of the plan. The impact of prices later on on plan implementation then becomes unclear and can result in undesirable subsequent requests for price changes. In response to this pressure new measures are being adopted that will adjust prices to a greater extent, or that will provide certain specific types of price incentives and penalties. In this way an important element in the planned development of a socialist society is being gradually changed into a complex mechanism for plan valuation. We must keep in mind, however, that this is not a matter of complications or shortcomings in the pricing system resulting from sloppiness in price formation. On the contrary the root causes lie in the economic system itself and in the place assigned to prices in that system as it now stands. This is the fundamental reason for the current situation, and the best conceived price formation policy could not eliminate the problem.

The basic lack of clarity concerning the position of prices in the economic system, and particularly their role in the formation and implementation of the plan, is very closely tied to the role of prices in setting standards for the resources managed by the cost-accounting sphere. Defining standards as generally valid norms or limits on the decisionmaking process and the administration of economic entities, it is clear that the level of resource standardization increases with the certainty with which the efficiency of a given production activity can be measured. In terms of prices, this involves the actual external verification of the amount of labor expended by a given producer. A standard price is one that is set independent of a specific producer, and one which is set for this producer as a social standard. Obviously such a price cannot be set as a cost-based price, derived only from the conditions of production.

Eliminating Subjective Influences

From the above discussion of the role of prices in plan formation and implementation, and the position of prices in defining standards for resources, it is clear that the standard setting function of prices must be accorded much more importance than has been the case. Relative prices must be made more accurate, meaning that they must come to reflect relative inputs of socially necessary labor costs.

In a broader context, making standards more accurate affects not only prices, but all valuation procedures including the setting of interest rates, foreign currency exchange rates, wage levels, etc. The economic system should assure, in other words, that all valuations will be as accurate as possible.

Implementing the changes in the price system that are implied in the foregoing discussion will require a change in the very formation of plan prices. This should become a part of the process of assuring the material and valualtional equilibrium of the plan based on efficiency criteria. In the above context this involves comparing the degree to which material needs will be satisfied with the level of social labor costs. This process must be made more precise because the planned objective for satisfying specific requirements is only in guideline stage at the time of plan formation. Only at the final planning stages are these numbers fine tuned, based on existing conditions within the economy. These conditions include the capability of manufacturers to produce given products and permissible levels of imports (which depends in part on the prices of these imports), and on the other hand the demand that exists for a given product, reflecting the need that society has for it.

Even if the economic system and price formation process were to exist as outlined in this article the capital replacement process would not proceed automatically. The public, economic center must still use the economic mechanisms at its disposal to exercise its organizational and managerial function. In this sense economic and pricing policy does not lose importance, but become even more important. The difference will be that central intervention will not be used to resolve every little case of disequilibrium, but only in those instances when the problem threatens to work against the policy objectives as outlined in the development plan. The organizational level at which the mechanisms of economic policy will be applied will depend to a large extent on the nature of these mechanisms at the branch, sectoral, and production levels.

In our opinion changes in the price system should be directed first of all at gradually eliminating the differences in wholesale, retail and procurement price levels. This process is already under way. The most intensive efforts are currently under way in relation to the retail-wholesale price relationships and the wholesale-foreign trade price relationships. Attention must also be paid, however, to the relative wholesale-procurement prices.

9276/9835
CSO: 2400/298

COOP SAVINGS BANKS TO COMPETE WITH CENTRAL BANK IN BUDAPEST

Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 2 Apr 87 p 4

[Article by Janos Cseh: "Farm Banks in Budapest"]

[Text] "Finally the National Savings Bank has found competition even in Budapest," exclaimed my acquaintance last year, when he found out that the savings cooperative of Alsonemed opened its first branch at Kispest. This business initiative has been followed by others; branches of savings cooperatives are in operation in 16 districts of the capital.

At first it was indeed necessary to prompt the cooperatives, which are functioning as well and producing outstanding results, to come and conquer territory in Budapest, because there is quite a bit of expense involved. It costs millions to create and outfit a branch office; not to mention the recruitment of personnel and the difficulties in maintaining communication with the main office. But the savings cooperatives soon recognized the great opportunity: indeed, there is greater need to find a place to deposit earnings in the cities than in the villages, and no savings cooperative is able to function economically without deposits. By now all places are taken. The savings cooperatives divided up the districts of the capital amongst themselves, and by the year's end there will be a branch in each of them. And thus a several decades-old yearning is finally fulfilled.

Strange Supervision

After Liberation loan associations operated in our country until 1952. When they were closed down the population of the villages were particularly affected by the unavailability of credit. Already in the mid-fifties the demand arose for the establishment of a cooperative financial institution of the people, on new foundations. This initiative was embraced by the National Association of Cooperatives which laid the legal groundwork for the organization of savings cooperatives, together with the competent authorities.

The first savings cooperative in the country was formed on October 14, 1956, at Dunafoldvar. The management of savings cooperatives fell within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance but, in practice, this function was filled by the National Savings Bank. The savings cooperatives resented this situation from the very beginning, because it is never the best solution

to entrust the management of your affairs to the competition. In addition to a number of impediments, this was one of the reasons why it was not possible to speak of true competition until 1985.

The savings cooperatives had to turn thirty years old to be finally taken seriously and to be offered almost equal conditions to compete with the National Savings Bank. In addition to the aforementioned guardianship the autonomy of the savings cooperatives was curtailed from the start by territorial limitations, as a result of which they were at a disadvantage vis-a-vis the state financial institution from the time of their establishment. Although the territories were clearly defined, the establishment of savings cooperatives was not authorized in some larger towns which had a branch of the National Savings Bank. For instance, they started to organize the savings cooperative at Bonyhad already in 1957, and even the preparatory committee had been formed, when the whole thing was called off.

Almost as a matter of course, the officials and members of the savings cooperatives seized every possible forum to insist on lifting the adverse discrimination against them. Their complaints were finally heard in 1971: the territorial restrictions were abolished. Consequently, savings cooperative units cropped up, for instance, at Simontornya, Tomasi, Paks, Mohacs, Szigetvar, and other towns, as early as 1972. This territorial conquest, however, did not last long; in 1976 once again a directive came down from the Council of Ministers which stated that the "parallel development of deposit-collecting institutions must be avoided" for the duration of the Five Year Plan. After this it was not possible to expand savings cooperative activities to "joint places" without special permission from the Ministry of Finance. This ban was partially lifted, once again, in 1983.

Without Credit

This was surprising for a number of reasons; for one thing, in their thirty years of operation the savings cooperatives had always been able to create the basis for the functioning and expansion of their business network, thanks to the solidarity of their members, from their own resources. Up until last year they had not been entitled to receiving credit. Today this restriction no longer applies; until now, not a single savings cooperative has made use of this opportunity: they are able to stand on their own feet.

Presently the operations of the 260 savings cooperatives extend to 99 percent of the settlements in the country; they operate 1,648 businesses, a hotel, and a bookstore. They have 1.9 million members, and this indicates close contact with their business partners. The sum of the shares paid in by the members exceeds 2.2 billion, and the deposits amount to 41 billion.

According to many, one of the most attractive features of the savings cooperatives is the subscription of shares, on which they pay dividends of 9 percent a year to the members. One may become a cooperative member, in one's district of residence, by purchasing a base share of 100 to 500 forints--depending on the location. The amount of interest paid on the deposit is identical to the percentage paid by the National Savings Bank.

The savings cooperatives keep bank accounts for small entrepreneurs, managers on contract, workers' enterprises at the plant, cooperative apartments, small cooperatives, and small enterprises. They issue loans to them as well, when warranted. From 1985 on, they have been able to participate in issuing long term loans for the construction of homes. The savings cooperatives have 10 billion forints available for loans, out of which four billion are earmarked for consumption and production loans, and 6 billion for construction.

In a New Status

In general, the upper limit for a personal loan is 20,000 to 25,000 forints. Occasionally, when there is a special requirement, the loan may exceed this limit. Agricultural projects may be supported to the tune of 150,000 forints.

In addition to their basic activities the savings cooperatives provide more than 30 kinds of services to their customers. The activity carried out on behalf of State Insurance is particularly significant: in addition to drafting insurance contracts and collecting premiums they also pay damages. Moreover, they participate in the development of tourist trade: they are involved in tourism at the village level, sponsor group tours, and exchange currency. The first stocks in the country which private individuals may purchase have been issued with the collaboration of the savings cooperatives; these have been commissioned by the Viticultural Collective of Nagyrede.

In 1985 the savings cooperatives were granted the status of banks, as a consequence of which the range of their services has expanded even further; for instance, they may participate in "leasing" ventures and in various enterprises. Having conquered the country seats last year, they now would like to gain more customers in Budapest by offering the advantage implied by the cooperative movement. This objective, however, is greatly hampered by the fact that they have not been able to obtain telephone service at many of their Budapest branches; what is more, they cannot expect to have it for many years to come.

In spite of unfavorable conditions and the greater and lesser obstacles, the savings cooperatives kept developing steadily, and will continue to develop in Budapest as well. In the course of a short time they have already collected shares and deposits amounting to 246 million forints, have disbursed 126 million in loans, and have increased their membership by 8,600. Their branch offices are in good taste and are not crowded. Their hours of operation take into consideration the needs of their members and, if warranted, they will introduce a second shift.

Finally we have a choice of public financial institutions.

13348/9716

CSO: 2500/324

WOZNIAK OUTLINES 'SECOND STAGE' REFORM IMPERATIVES

Warsaw NOWE DROGI in Polish No 2, Feb 87 pp 29-43

[Article by Marian Wozniak, PZPR CC Secretary for Economic Affairs, head of Central Committee Commission on Economic Policy, Reform, and Self-Management: "The Second Stage of the Economic Reform and the Main Tasks for National Development"]

[Text] The need to intensify the national economy and accelerate its growth has become a development challenge to not only our country but all the socialist countries.

For these reasons, the Comprehensive Program for Science and Technology Progress in CEMA Member Countries until 2000, adopted at the Extraordinary 41st Session of CEMA in December 1985, as well as the drafts of party program documents and the resolutions of communist and worker party congresses, stress as an economic priority the tasks of switching the national economy more rapidly onto the path of intensification and streamlining of social production.

The pre-Congress [prior to the 10th PZPR Congress] campaign and the shape of the economic and scientific-technical policies being formulated and refined by the various countries belonging to the Socialist Community were markedly influenced by the nature of the program planks and resolutions of the 27th CPSU Congress, which outline a strategy of a qualitative restructuring and the basing of economic development on a more efficient utilization of the achievements of human thought as materialized in the form of science and technology progress, on spurring the activism of working people, and on innovativeness and resourcefulness.

The resolutions of the 10th PZPR Congress are based on both the experience so far in applying the economic reform and the experience of the other socialist countries.

Analysis of the socioeconomic development of discrete CEMA countries in the last 10-20 years, as well as of their plans for the next few years, indicates that all the countries of our Community face urgent and qualitatively new economic tasks that relate to many macroeconomic problems which have to be

resolved over a long time frame, upon correctly determining and fulfilling the current and following 5-year plans until the end of this century.

Coping with competition, defense needs, and civilizational development of the socialist countries requires a qualitative turnabout and an improved utilization of indigenous potential and leading world experience. The deficiencies that must be overcome are linked to the unsatisfactory structure of the economies of particular socialist countries and their slow process of production intensification, lower productivity, lack of competitiveness on world markets, and sluggish pace of development and of the utilization of science and technology progress.

In their "Declaration" on the 1984 economic conference the leaders of CEMA countries deemed it necessary to adapt the activities of the Council for Economic Mutual Assistance to the new tasks ensuing from the strategy of acceleration adopted by all the member countries. The working meeting of the leaders on 11-12 November 1986 in Moscow provided the premises for initiating a fundamental restructuring of the economic mechanisms and organizational-legal structures of CEMA. The work being carried out by the governments of all the member countries will proceed in the direction of:

- greater focusing on strategic problems relating to the coordination of longrange economic policy, directions of specialization and coproduction, and technological progress;

- increased effectiveness of the economic instruments of mutual cooperation, including currency exchange rates, prices, credit, the transfer ruble;

- marked expansion of direct linkages between economic organizations, as well as broadening of coproduction and specialization, and new organizational forms;

- improvements in the methods and style of work of CEMA and its bodies, especially the Secretariat.

In implementing its economic reform, Poland may make a significant contribution to the accomplishment of these tasks. This also affords a definite opportunity for broadening cooperation so that Poland may make up for its lag in, among other things, modernizing production capital and elevating the level of the modernity and quality of production.

The 10th PZPR Congress provided a great impetus for streamlining our economic system by stressing the need for more efficient management and improved living conditions of the society. Its resolutions defined moreover the main instruments of intensification, which include:

- transition to the second stage of the reform;

- acceleration of scientific-technical and organizational progress;

- fuller utilization of manpower, energy, raw-material, and fixed-capital resources;

- promotion of pro-export orientation of the economy;
- structural changes in the economy;
- comprehensive review of organizational structures in the economy and the state.

Current Stage of Reforming the Economy

The principal objectives of the economic reform were defined in the documents of the Ninth Extraordinary Congress of the Polish United Workers Party. As approved by the Ninth Congress, the "Directions of the Economic Reform" outlines a complex whole of economic and organizational measures for restructuring the entire operating system of the economy with the object of making it rational and efficient and enhancing the participation of the society in its management.

The systemic changes envisaged consist in strengthening the strategic role of central planning, enhancing the initiative and autonomy of enterprises as based on the fundamental principle of the "Three S's" (autonomy, self-financing, self-government), and introducing economic instruments for guiding the economy. The economic reform at the same time represents a major revolution in social thinking and action, affording an opportunity for the self-realization of man as the subject rather than object of economic activity. At the same time, it harbors major political implications because, being closely linked to the entire system for refining the functioning of the socialist state, it is a major element of socialist renewal.

During the first stage of the economic reform, the legal system regulating the sphere of the economy was deeply restructured to an extent that is best illustrated by the passage of 26 decrees and approximately 200 sets of implementing regulations at various levels. The reforming of the economy initiated in January 1982 has yielded considerable experience, but successes have also been accompanied by shortcomings.

Given such an ambitious measure involving changes in the legal and institutional framework of operation of economic units, and including changes in the decisionmaking structure and in interrelationships between economic organizations and central and local administration, difficulties as well as social tensions were to be expected. The functioning of the party and of trade-union and self-government organizations also is to change and be restructured, which likewise is not a simple process.

Assessing the results so far of the economic reform is an unusually difficult problem. It may be said that, generally speaking, the reform has provided the framework for the autonomy and initiative of enterprises, as mirrored in the gradual growth of output. Last year the pre-crisis [pre-1981] level of industrial putput was exceeded. Agricultural output has increased markedly. There has been evident improvement in quality of management and labor productivity has risen. Trade with the socialist countries is growing. The role of the enterprises has been strengthened: compared with the previous 40-year period, they have become endowed with a vast scope of rights to manage

their own investments, development, and operations. Their worker self-governments also now have greater rights and work to a growing extent on complex development problems.

The reforming process is too vast and complicated to be free of deficiencies and shortcomings during its implementation. This refers chiefly to the persistent economic imbalance, as reflected in the continuing lag of supply behind demand, the budget deficit, the growing foreign indebtedness, and the nonuniform progress in qualitative changes within the economy. Thus, such pluses as the rise in labor productivity and some decrease in energy- and materials-intensiveness are accompanied by such minuses as:

- incomplete utilization of work time;
- supply interruptions, limping coproduction;
- low quality of products and services;
- incomplete utilization of productive assets and low level of (and often negligence in) operation of machinery and equipment;
- nearly universal divorcement of wages from increase in output and labor productivity;
- difficulties in introducing the principle of complete self-financing, as evidenced by, among other things, the rise in subsidies from the state budget;
- sluggish pace of application of science and technology progress;
- sluggish display of initiative and resourcefulness by enterprises;
- absence of adequate economic compulsion, which complicates efficient management. This is reflected in the underutilization of fixed assets, raw materials, fuel, and work time, and also in the low quality of production and services.

The abovementioned main shortcomings of the reform impede the needed qualitative restructuring of the economy. This problem is particularly acute at present, because, if the targets of the 5-year plan are to be fulfilled, one-half of the increase in national income and output must be accomplished through efficiency measures.

The application of the reform is slowly but distinctly resulting in changes in the mindsets of enterprise management. Thanks to this, its *modus operandi* is changing. The attempts of enterprises to negotiate (with parent agencies) for wage funds and material and foreign-exchange resources are increasingly being abandoned in favor of exploring the possibilities for a more effective utilization of the enterprise's own resources, streamlining its technology and organization, and acting more resourcefully. The evolution of such attitudes among managerial personnel is promoted by the fact that the scope of powers to grant discounts and tax relief vested in the central economic agencies is contracting while the importance of systemic solutions is expanding. It should

be added here, however, that such solutions, which represent an original contribution of the Polish reform, are not simple and, unfortunately, have to be reached by the trial-and-error method.

The deficiencies so far of the economic reform as well as the justified belief in the necessity of accelerating it (as a safeguard of qualitative changes and attainment of the intended objectives) prompted the thesis of the necessity of its second stage. This [the definition of the second stage] is eliciting considerable controversy, but it should principally signify action to eliminate the deficiencies so far of the reform and apply hard economic rules so that greater efficiency would become a cardinal issue to all.

Thus, the second stage of the reform does not mean an altered concept of the reform; on the contrary, it represents an accelerated attainment of its model solutions, consonant with the concept adopted at the Ninth PZPR Congress. It should make it possible to achieve qualitative progress assuring the attainment of the economic and social objectives of the current 5-Year Plan.

Principal Economic Objectives of the 5-Year Plan.

The strategic goal of the current 5-Year Plan is to establish and consolidate the economy's capability for a balanced and efficient development. Accomplishing this goal requires designing economic measures in such a way as to attain a maximal scale of growth in living standards while at the same time assuring the needed resources for structural changes in the material base as well as for such a growth of that base as would provide the foundations for stable longterm development. Allowance should also be made for the external and internal conditions in which we live and which markedly restrict the field of maneuver. At present the pace of increase in manpower, fuel, and material resources is the lowest ever in the history of People's Poland. At the same time, the already high depreciation rate of production capital is rising even further. The needs of the rapidly growing population of pre- and post-able-bodied age are rising. The needs relating to environmental protection also are growing. In addition, as known, we have to shoulder the heavy burden of repaying our foreign debt and, moreover, given the current political situation in the world, the needs of coping with the requirements of national defense also are growing.

At the same time, we still harbor unutilized potential -- the potential harbored in the intellectual resources and skills of the society, in organizational possibilities, and in an improved utilization of work time, raw and other materials, and machinery. Hence, stimulating action to promote activism and labor productivity, reduce energy- and materials-intensiveness, and improve the utilization of qualitative sources of development is an urgent and important task of economic policy in this country.

Material conditions of development are created chiefly by:

- 1) modernizing the production potential;
- 2) accelerating science and technology progress;

- 3) enhancing the country's participation in the international division of labor, especially by means of a prominent rise in exports;
- 4) restructuring the economy;
- 5) spurring the work activism of the society;
- 6) updating and streamlining the system for guiding the national economy.

Advances in Effectiveness of Management

The conducted studies and assessments of development possibilities, allowing for external and internal realities and conditions, served to specify at about 16-19 percent the anticipated rise in generated national income during the 1986-1990 period. This rise will depend on the growth of output and, chiefly, on improvements in effectiveness of management and a substantial reduction in the materials- and energy-intensiveness of production and national income, because further increases in the supply of raw materials and energy are not feasible at present.

Such a growth in efficiency is being accomplished with unusual effectiveness in certain socialist countries and developed capitalist countries, which additionally justifies choosing this policy. Accordingly, given increases of 16 percent in the output of the socialized industry, 10-11 percent in the output of agriculture, and 9.5-12 percent in the output of the construction industry, the pace of increase in the supply of raw materials and energy will be markedly lower. Thus, the supplies of fuel will increase 6 percent; metallurgical products, 5.2 percent; and electrical energy, 18.3 percent. In addition, considerable progress in effectiveness of management will be needed, to be reflected in both an increase in labor productivity by 15-18 percent in the sphere of material production, 16.3 percent in industry, and 12 percent in construction, and an increase of 8 percent in the productivity of fixed capital and 11 percent in overall agricultural output per hectare of arable land.

Improvements in other effectiveness indicators also will be needed. This concerns chiefly reducing:

- the energy-intensiveness of generated national income, by 9 to 11 percent;
- the energy-intensiveness of industrial production, by 7.9 to 9.5 percent;
- the materials-intensiveness of generated national income, by 6.0 to 8.2 percent;
- the materials-intensiveness of industrial production, by 7.5 to 9.5 percent;
- the materials-intensiveness of construction-and-assembly operations, by 9.5 to 12 percent.

A comparison of certain effectiveness indicators (contained in Table 1), which we should use more broadly than in the past, indicates the scale of the tasks posed.

Social objectives can be attained only through intensive development, which should be accomplished during the second stage of the reform. Here, a nationwide movement for conservation and against waste and profligacy can and should be a major factor.

Table 1

Mean Annual Growth Rate in percent			
Economic Indicator	Fulfillment of 1983-1985 3-Year Plan	1986 Fulfillment	Premises of 1986-1990 5-Year Plan
National income	4.9	Approx. 5.0	3.0-3.5
Industrial output	5.1	4.4	3.0
Labor productivity	5.2	Approx. 5.0	5.5

Mean Annual Decrease (Estimated) in percent			
Materials-intensiveness of national income	2.2	3.0-3.5	1.3-1.7
Energy-intensiveness of national income	2.7	3.5-4.0	1.9-2.3
Materials-intensiveness of industrial production	1.3	2.0	1.6-2.0
Energy-intensiveness of industrial production	1.8	3.5	1.8-2.2

It is worth noting that, unlike quantitative indicators, qualitative indicators are increasingly difficult to attain as the economy develops, because the potential for extensive growth is becoming depleted and it is becoming necessary to implement changes in production technology, improve quality, and promote organizational progress and more efficient management.

Principal Social Objectives for the 1986-1990 Period

As noted above, the second stage of the reform is to provide the basis for attaining the principal social objectives envisaged in the 5-Year Plan. They include:

- further improvements in the supply of food and manufactured goods;
- an effective reduction in inflation;
- progress in solving the housing problem;
- progress in expanding health care and stopping the degradation of natural environment;
- expansion of educational and cultural facilities;
- evolution of personal incomes on the basis of the principles of socialist social justice.

Given the assumed level of national income the per capita consumption of goods and services can increase at a mean annual growth rate of 1.7 to 2.4 percent. The increase in market supply will be about 14-15 percent, of which food, about 14 percent, and non-food merchandise, 17 percent.

During the current 5-year period certain changes will occur in the structure of consumption. The share of expenditures on food will decrease somewhat. Annual per capita consumption of meat is expected to increase to 64 from 50 kg. During this period the abolition of meat rationing also is to be expected. Quality of products and adaptation of production to demand should improve.

The growth rate of the market supply of manufactured consumed goods during the 1986-1990 period will exceed that of the market supply of foods, and it will also be higher than the planned mean growth rate of personal consumption.

Domestic and imported products should satisfy the demand for staple consumer goods. The supply of many household articles and appliances is expected to increase by: about 25 percent for refrigerators and freezers, about 45 percent for stereophonic radio receivers, about 20 percent for black-and-white television sets, about 20-25 percent for tape recorders, about 40-55 percent for kitchen utensils, and about 25-30 percent for furniture.

During the 1986-1990 5-year period consumer services also should expand. It is estimated that their mean annual growth rate will be about 5.5 percent (5 percent for services provided by the socialized sector and 6 percent for services provided by private craftsmen). The number of service centers will increase by about 5,000 and employment in the service sector will increase by approximately 26,000. Preferences will be accorded to construction-and-repair services, repair of household equipment, hygienic-sanitary services, etc.

Measures to restore the market equilibrium and gradually restrict inflation will be systematically developed. The rising requirements to be met by the producers of consumer goods and the modernization of their production will contribute to marked improvements in the quality of goods destined for the domestic market. They must be more up-to-date and energy-conserving, that is, cheaper to use in households. All this taken together should produce a tangible improvement in the living conditions of families and curtail the vexations of quotidian life.

During the 1986-1990 period many-sided measures will be taken to improve the housing situation. They will focus on:

- safeguarding and utilizing more efficiently the existing housing stock;
- expanding the scale of new construction and taking steps to reduce construction and operating costs;
- assuring a marked expansion of the housing construction program after 1990.

To put an end to the ongoing decapitalization of housing stock, as well as to upgrade that stock, approximately 950,000 dwellings, that is, over 60 percent more than in the previous 5-year period, are to be renovated. The central

budgets will allocate corresponding quantities of basic materials and products for renovation. In addition, the necessary budget funds and loans for prospective apartment purchasers will be allocated. The scope of the renovation of the existing housing stock will be markedly expanded, which will help improve the housing conditions of many families and reduce the number of unusable dwellings. It is to be expected that this will reduce the demand for new housing. Since renovation is less expensive than new construction, this will serve to meet the society's housing demand at a lower cost.

A better utilization of the housing stock will also be possible owing to the streamlining of the procedures for exchanging apartments by not only simplifying the attendant formalities but also adjusting the housing rents.

According to current estimates the material and financial outlays envisaged in the current 5-year plan will allow building approximately 1,050,000-1,150,000 dwellings. This will expand the housing stock by about 10 percent and the useful area of dwellings by about 12-13 percent. At the same time, it will result in reducing the housing shortage in relation to the number of households from the estimate of about 1.4 million at present to about 1.1 million in 1990. In 1990 the number of rooms will, for the first time in our history, exceed the number of inhabitants.

The construction of 1,050,000-1,150,000 dwellings requires reducing the overall construction cost, and especially reducing the unit consumption of materials, by about 2 percent annually. In the light of what has been done so far to improve construction efficiency, this is an ambitious target. But if the existing potential in this respect, and especially the large scale of waste, is considered, this is a feasible target. An indispensable prerequisite for achieving the desirable cost reductions is enhancing the interest of housing cooperatives and future users of dwellings in an improved performance of construction enterprises. Spurring civic activism can also be of great importance to streamlining the process of housing construction.

A more efficient utilization of building materials means additional dwellings which increase the overall volume of housing construction. To alleviate the shortages of building materials and skilled construction workers, special conditions will be assured for appropriate socialized and nonsocialized enterprises. This concerns in particular enterprises using local resources of raw materials and construction-and-repair enterprises.

To improve the quality of new housing, construction technologies and systems will be perfected while at the same time eliminating materials- and energy-intensive technologies. Another way of streamlining the consumption of building materials will be measures to restrict the area of newly planned housing projects, reduce their distance from the existing utility infrastructure (sources of water, heat, etc.), and increase the utilization of already developed land.

The solution of the housing problem is closely linked to the application of new organizational and financial solutions enhancing the financial participation of individuals, plants and factories, and people's councils in the construction and maintenance of housing. The assumption is that the

current system for financing housing and granting housing loans will be modified so as to augment the financial participation of individuals in the cost of construction, chiefly by allowing higher personal payments for cooperative-built (rented and owned) dwellings, shortening the periods of repayment of housing loans, and reducing [state-]budget subsidies for cooperative-built rental housing. These measures will cause an increase in the share of personal financing of the cost of housing construction. Another objective will be to gradually introduce the principle of personalizing the state's assistance for housing purposes, in the form of bank loans and budget subsidies. The forms and amount of that assistance will differ depending on the material and family situation of housing applicants. In addition, further changes will be introduced in the policy on fees and rentals for state-, cooperative- and privately-owned housing stock, so that budget subsidies would be granted exclusively for the renovation of that stock. At the same time, people's councils will broaden their financial assistance to the housing users with extremely low incomes. Such assistance will not be granted for paying the cost of norm-exceeding useful area in dwellings, however.

The need to expand the facilities of elementary and supraelementary education ensues from the anticipated high rate of increase in the numbers of school-age children and youth until 1990. The fulfillment of the related tasks concerns not just the state but the entire society. Hence, the institution of National Assistance to Schools is of great importance. The assumption is that 17,800 new classrooms will be built for elementary schools, and an additional 3,000 classrooms, more or less, will be provided by sources other than state investments, which should make it possible to maintain the class-shift factor at the level of 1.19 in 1990. Achieving these objectives requires shortening the investment cycles and radically improving school construction. The program of reform in supraelementary education has commenced in the 1986/1987 academic year. A growing number of elementary-school graduates will enter full-time secondary schools. Enrollment in supraelementary schools will increase by 380,000 and the number of classrooms by about 4,000.

A higher level and better quality of health care can be an important factor in improving the quality of life. The supplies of medicaments and medical instruments and equipment are definitely improving. Altogether, 25,000 beds will be released for use in newly built hospitals. A total of 260 new clinics and health care centers will be opened. Major efforts will be undertaken in the field of the regular and advanced training of medical personnel. Definite progress in the organization of medical services is expected, and their quality as well as the availability of basic medical care will improve. This will occur owing to a broadening of the right to choose one's physician, as well as owing to a better utilization of medical personnel and facilities. Measures to combat civilizational diseases will be intensified. The country's sanitation will improve. Safety and hygiene of labor also will improve; in particular, the number of persons working in conditions noxious to health will be restricted.

Concern for protecting natural environment is becoming an important factor. It is expected that investment outlays on environmental protection will increase significantly, at a growth rate of 12.7 percent annually, on the average. Their share in overall outlays on the socialized sector will increase to 4

percent in 1990 from 2.8 percent in 1985. The principal directions of environmental protection are: improvements in the purity of water, water supply, and the protection of air and soil.

The importance of the second stage of the reform is such that it requires many combined measures in the economic, organizational, and sociopolitical domains. In the economic domain, all the measures serving to introduce realistic parameters of cost-effectiveness accounting acquire a special importance. This should be reflected in realistic prices on the domestic market and realistic currency exchange rates, and also in trimming budget subsidies to the minimum extent needed to pursue principal social objectives (e.g. milk-price subsidies). At present such subsidies have reached 30 percent of the [state] budget; in industry, 20 percent of output is subsidized, particularly coal. The question of subsidies along with the complex whole of problems linked to the pace and scale of application of the reform will continue to be debated.

A particularly important task of the reform should be measures to promote exports, these being a prerequisite for improving the country's payments situation. Economic instruments and institutional solutions should provide even greater stimuli to enterprises for undertaking production for export and provide preferences for an increase in effective exports, with bonuses to be granted to the enterprises and their management and workforces according to the actual results of their export work. This requires introducing an active rate-of-exchange policy, meaning the adaptation of currency rates of exchange to the changing economic conditions of foreign trade. This in its turn will encourage enterprises to produce for export and rationalize imports.

A major role in the expansion of exports should be played by an improved system of foreign-exchange allocations (ROD) granted to exporting enterprises; this concerns in particular granting to enterprises autonomy in disposing of these allocations and linking their size to the effectiveness of their exports. The assumption is that the foreign-exchange accounts of enterprises will be gradually converted to the status of their liquid capital, and that banking operations using foreign exchange will be introduced directly among the enterprises themselves (the foreign-exchange market). These instruments will be complemented by the policy of loan preferences for pro-export investments, and they will be organizationally supported by the Export Development Bank.

Measures to accelerate the economic reform are to produce, in accordance with the goals outlined at the Third Plenum of the PZPR Central Committee, definite benefits to households, enterprises, and the state budget, toward the end of the 5-Year Plan.

Households should be placed in a position benefiting from a market equilibrium and free availability of goods, with rationing abolished. This requires eliminating the pathological aspects of the functioning of the market and achieving a situation that can be described as the consumer's market, which means corresponding preferences for the buyer.

At the same time, a condition for a good market is a fundamental reduction in the inflation rate -- to 5 percent.

Enterprises should be assured of the stability of their self-financing, provided that they operate efficiently.

The state budget should be based on stabilized sources of income, without having to resort to appropriating enterprise funds in order to keep it balanced.

The thus defined goals should be regarded as the maximum goals. Their accomplishment hinges on considerable progress in economic performance as interpreted in terms of an improved performance of enterprises and a rational economic policy of the government.

A prerequisite for the reform's success is liberating the spirit of resourcefulness. This concerns the enterprises, their workforces, and individual employees.

A more rapid adaptation of the organizational structures of the economy and the state to operation within the new economic system is becoming indispensable. This requires, as it were, discovering the advantages yielded by the present-day science and practice of organization and management. Above all, it is good managerial personnel, properly trained and continually upgrading its skills, that should pioneer in organizational progress. Here a special role should be played by the Supreme Technical Organization and the Society for Scientific Organization and Management.

The higher educational institutions, and especially the polytechnics, should reform the system for training managerial personnel. We are placing great hopes in the activities of science and technology personnel, whose work is now gaining due recognition. Broad access to world experience should be opened to political and economic activists and the related provincialism should be abandoned. It is expected that effectiveness requirements will change the somewhat arrogant approach of plant management to the expertises provided by organizational consulting firms. It may be that, owing to the years of backwardness in this domain, the experience of foreign specialists will have to be utilized.

The opinions of experts from the International Monetary Fund confirm the need for a thorough study of the pertinent world experience, especially as regards economic restructuring, inflation control, and enterprise management.

Identifying the candidates for executive posts in management should develop into a system serving to improve the level of enterprise management. Good management is impossible in the absence of good, well-trained managerial personnel with a broad intellectual horizon, professional experience, and ability to deal with people.

Awareness of the importance of the organizational factor and the fact that economic instruments alone do not assure all the desirable measures needed to translate the economic reform into reality account for idea of the nationwide review of organizational structures. In accordance with the Resolution of the 10th PZPR Congress, the principal purposes of the review of the functioning of organizational structures in the economy and the state are to be the

modernization and streamlining of management, rationalization of the level and structure of employment, and curtailment of bureaucratic manifestations. The review will be conducted by the Party-Government Commission, which will operate in the form of several taskforces consisting of practitioners, scientists, and sociopolitical activists. The review should assure:

- streamlining the system of management, including, above all, organizational structures at all levels;

- adaptation of organizational structures to the requirements of the economic reform, and in particular support for the introduction of the reform's pro-effectiveness solutions;

- support for other measures intended to streamline the performance of enterprises, i.e., to bring into order their accounting and bookkeeping operations and their information-handling and decisionmaking procedures, and also to strengthen internal cost-effectiveness accounting, streamline their organization, introduce the brigade-labor system, etc.;

- improving services to citizens in every domain, i.e., the services provided by local administration, economic organizations, public utilities, producers, cultural institutions, and the consumer service sector;

- identifying superfluous structures and excess or disproportionate employment, and providing the conditions for an efficient utilization of the identified potential.

So that the review may be extended to the entire economic structure, the government has commenced nationwide job certification at enterprises. The related work is not progressing too rapidly. Quite frequently, such certification is regarded as a temporary campaign, but as experience teaches, temporary campaigns may not be effective. Yet, job certification, which serves to ascertain the usefulness and scope of given jobs and work stations, is an indispensable attribute of an efficiently functioning structure. At the same time, though, instances of unjustified certification of white-collar jobs are adversely affecting public opinion. The existence of a kind of bureaucracy within enterprises is an evident fact, and ways of streamlining the rationalization of their white-collar employment should be speeded up. As a result, the nationwide review should extend to the whole of the structures of the economy and the state, lead to marked progress in their functioning, and reinforce the reform.

There is no need to prove that the reform's success hinges on whether its aims and methods are understood by the society. For only then its effective application and support by individuals and organizations can be expected. Its present-day support can be regarded as relatively strong institutionally but much less strong so far as individuals are concerned. There also exist forces which oppose the reform if not actively then certainly out of inertia. The reform is often associated solely with deplorable economic consequences as well as with many fears, such as the fear of lower employment, of dismissal of inefficient employees, of bankruptcy of enterprises, etc.

The reform has not yet reached the workplaces. Hence, in addition to its nature not being understood, it is associated with certain fears. This requires extremely energetic educational measures at all levels of the administration and the economy, and even in schools. This also poses major tasks to the mass media and publicists writing on economics. Quite a few myths have to be demolished, including especially the myth that wages depend on the government's decisions and that the scale of social welfare and wages can be determined independently, as it were, of the economic performance of the enterprises and the state as a whole. In particular, there is the psychological barrier of the longtime nationwide habituation to wages based on wage-category rates rather than on the economic performance of the enterprise.

It is frequently believed that the poor performance of an enterprise due to external factors and that the attendant wage reductions are a social injustice. But were wages to remain unchanged in this case, that would occur at the expense of other enterprises, and this would precisely be an injustice. It is to be supposed that at present such attitudes also are due to the difficult general situation. However, unless we mobilize the activism of enterprises and individuals, economic performance will not improve. We should pursue the goal of good wages for good work and poor wages for poor work. Hence, the enforcement of the Decree on Collective Labor Agreements should be approached with great caution, so as not to vitiate the economic rationale in favor of subsector tendencies toward equalizing wages at enterprises regardless of their particular economic performance.

That is why so many institutions and organizations have to accomplish many important tasks to promote public support of the reform. In addition to the Sejm, the people's councils, and worker self-governments, the party organizations and the ZSL [United Peasant Party] and the SD [Democratic Party] should wage the principal struggle for the reform.

It is good that the PRON [Patriotic Movement for National Rebirth] has published its somewhat debatable but unusually valuable report on the reform. The activity of the Commission for the Economic Reform is of great importance.

I believe that the Supreme Technical Organization, the Polish Economic Society, and the Society for Scientific Organization and Management will markedly expand the scale of their activities by switching from nationwide measures to the more effective measures on the scale of discrete voivodships and enterprises. At the same time, these organizations patronize consulting firms -- in view of their possibilities -- so as to prevent compromising this nascent form of consulting which should be widely propagated.

Thus, the second stage of the reform denotes the need to exert considerable effort in order to reach social awareness. We must reach common consensus and understand the universal necessity of difficult and unpopular decisions with the object of creating the conditions for longterm development. We will have to choose the pace and manner of the attainment of realistic economic parameters or, in other words, the pace of application of the reform. For example, it is possible to abolish subsidies more rapidly and thus attain the economic equilibrium more rapidly as well, but there will be a price to pay. This "quid pro quo" is only seemingly of an economic nature. It also

represents a political dilemma, because it concerns human behavior. A slower pace of introduction of realistic economic parameters (subsidies, prices, etc.) might seem more advantageous socially, but it would prolong the period of attainment of the equilibrium and result in impatience with and criticism of the reform itself. A reduction in subsidies does not mean that the burden will be transferred onto prices and the society but is intended to prompt a decline in production cost as well as a more efficient performance of the enterprise. When an enterprise's performance does not improve, this should place it in a financially worse situation and even threaten receivership proceedings against it. These are difficult problems, but by now it can be said that the previous sluggish pace of cost-effectiveness measures signifies the necessity of toughening these measures during the second state of the reform. This can be resolved more easily given adequate understanding of the reform by the society in general, as I mentioned earlier.

To many of us this will mean, however, a rather painful abandonment of certain habits and a certain way of thinking and acting. Even now examples of action in the reform's spirit can be encountered. The shortages of producer goods are prompting the conclusion of longterm agreements, changes of technologies, and radical measures to conserve raw materials. The lack of machinery is prompting action to increase exports in order to earn foreign exchange, and hence to improve the quality of labor, etc. The broader such attitudes become in practice, the more they will justify the claim that the reform exists in a qualitatively new stage.

•

The problem of the transition to the second stage of the reform as well as problems of accelerating qualitative changes in our economy were considered by the Third Plenum of the PZPR Central Committee. The Plenum focused its attention on accelerating qualitative changes in the economy and outlined the tasks of the party and the state and economic administration. Its session was preceded by extensive sociopolitical activities, as reflected in the reports-elections campaign within the party following the 10th Congress, the trade-union campaign, the Congress of the Reborn Polish Trade Unions, and the discussion of the draft 1986-1990 National Socioeconomic Plan and the preparations for its ratification by the Sejm.

The Third Plenum defined more precisely the substance of the second stage of the reform, whose main objectives are to be:

-- a more rapid balancing of the economy, chiefly through the elimination of inflationary mechanisms, reductions in subsidies, introduction of more realistic currency exchange rates, streamlining of the wage system, and introduction of more realistic assessment of fixed capital and depreciation rates. This means an expansion of the domains of equilibrium on the producer goods, investment, and consumer goods markets;

-- stimulating the production activism and resourcefulness of workforces and enhancing the possibilities of efficiently performing enterprises;

-- accelerating qualitative changes in the economy. This also includes strengthening discipline and improving the quality of labor and propagating the brigade forms of the organization of labor. In addition, major measures are to be taken to promote a higher quality of labor. A particularly important sector is the streamlining of the management of materials, fuels, and energy. An important role should be played by plant conservation programs and material incentives. It is expected that further measures will be taken to eliminate the lag in the maintenance of fixed capital and improve its utilization;

-- linking the increase in incomes more closely to work performance;

-- accelerating scientific and technical progress by, among other things, reviewing the equipment and technologies employed and implementing efficiently the plant programs for technological progress;

-- accelerating the restructuring of the economy, and especially of its pro-export orientation.

Fulfilling the resolutions of the 10th Congress, the Third Plenum recommended the conduct of a broad information-and-consultation drive with the object of obtaining the society's opinion on the pace and manner of the restoration of the economic equilibrium as well as on the social consequences of this process. It will be necessary to identify the opportunities and advantages harbored in accelerating the reform and the perils harbored in its halting or slowdown.

The plenum appealed to public organizations, self-governments, trade-unions, socio-occupational societies, and the public, for participation in resolving discrete problems.

1386

CSO: 2600/589

SHIPPING COMPANY HEAD OPTIMISTIC ABOUT STOCK SALES

Warsaw EXPRESS WIECZORNY in Polish 9 Apr 87 pp 1,4

[Interview with Ryszard Harger, Chairman of Zegluga Polska Shipping Company, by Wanda Waligora: "Will the Crews Buy Zegluga Polska Ships?"]

[Text] "Proposals for economic and social measures during the second stage of the economic reform envisage, among other things, the possibility of the issuance of shares by enterprises and the purchase of part of these shares by their employees. How is this viewed at Zegluga Polska?" This question was asked of Chairman Ryszard Karger by the EXPRESS reporter.

[Answer] These proposals promote our ideas. Already 5 years ago, at the time of establishment of Zegluga Morska, Inc., a joint stock company whose shareholders are the PZM [Polish Steamship Lines], Polfracht Gdynia, and the Szczecin Maritime Agency, we had believed that the next logical organizational step to increase the efficiency of shipping would be to sell shares in the company to our employees. This may be a major source of the development or modernization of the enterprise's fleet, and this particularly concerns the PZM.

[Question] When you speak of selling shares to employees do you mean every employee?

[Answer] I mean those who want to purchase them and feel co-owners of the fleet, and who therefore would exert every effort to improve its performance to the utmost. Most of the PZM's personnel are ship crews. I refer especially to those who are said to be the enterprise's drafthorses: the captains, senior mechanics, and other responsible employees interested in investing in the company instead of keeping their money in the bank. I believe that this is in the well-conceived interest of the economy as a whole.

[Question] But why should an employee be interested in investing in the company if his investment would yield a profit equal to the interest rate he is paid on his savings in the bank, an interest rate that does not reflect the inflation rate anyway? What is the point of it? Is he supposed to invest in the company just out of ambition? Not everyone would care for that.

[Answer] Ambition counts also, but what matters most is that if the joint-stock company performs well and profitably, then the shareholder will receive dividends. Within a joint-stock company the distribution of profits is decided upon by the general meeting of shareholders, with the amount of dividend being dependent on the amount of profits. And the dividend may be higher than the interest rate paid at the PKO [Polish Savings Bank].

[Question] What if the company makes no profit?

[Answer] It is a game, so to speak, but it is a game based on the employee's own labor input. And hence the conclusion that the distribution of a company's shares among employees provides the motive power for the enterprise.

[Question] Are the resources of the PZM so scanty that shares purchased by employees could markedly assist the enterprise?

[Answer] That is not the point. The PZM will manage. But why should it rest content with, say, acquiring only three or four ships a year? Why should not it instead acquire more ships to magnify its profits? There can be no mention of economic acceleration in the presence of stagnation.

[Question] How many people would be willing to purchase shares of Zegluga Polska?

[Answer] I'm not a fortuneteller. At the next general meeting of the company, shareholders will adopt suitable resolutions and measures, and this will be followed by an assessment study. A couple of years ago, when we had been considering issuing bonds, people had a lot of money, but now their material possibilities are limited. This has to be taken into account.

[Question] Mr Chairman, you surely must feel gratified that ideas which you had advanced several years ago are consonant with the current proposals of the government.

[Answer] Yes, as the chairman and founder of Zegluga Polska, Inc. (the first joint-stock shipping company -- Editor) I can feel gratified that what we had been saying several years ago is now beginning to be translated into reality, in the sense of the creation of legal possibilities for the new economic solutions we meant. I say "we," because I identify with those groups of individuals whose initiatives and concepts anticipated what is happening now. Previously the proper climate for such concepts had been absent.

[Question] But you did succeed earlier in translating into reality some of these initiatives. How long has the Interster Yachting joint-stock company, established by Zegluga Polska, Inc., been existing? It seems that the value of its shares is steadily rising.

[Answer] Interster Yachting has been existing for 3 years. Next to us, the principal shareholders are the Polish Maritime Union and the Polish Baltic Sea Steamship Company. We sell shares of Interster Yachting, and their market price already is three times as high as their nominal value.

[Question] We thus already have in embryo a Polish stock market. Who has bought these shares?

[Answer] Warta Insurance Society, Inc., yacht shipyards, private craftsmen who are our suppliers, and other joint-stock and private companies. On the basis of a special permit from the Ministry of Finance we have issued and sold a number of shares of Interster Yachting abroad as well. We sell them at their market price, which is based on the value of the company's capital and its economic potential.

[Question] Zegluga Polska, Inc., on the one hand sells shares as a partner in Interster Yachting and, on the other....

[Answer] Buys shares of the Export Development Bank. I might say that the establishment of that bank is in a sense linked to our earlier proposals which had been shelved 4 years ago. At that time we had proposed the establishment of a merchant-marine bank for financing with zlotys and foreign exchange the operations and investments of shipping enterprises. The bank's capital would be contributed by these enterprises. It may be that in the new climate this proposal will be revived and contribute to resolving many problems of shipping enterprises to the benefit of the nation's economy as a whole.

1386

CSO: 2600/590

'PEWEX' HEAD PLANS CURRENCY EXCHANGE AT BLACK MARKET PRICES

Warsaw EXPRESS WIECZORNY in Polish 24-26 Apr 87 pp 3, 9

[Interview with Marek Pietkiewicz, PEWEX sales manager, by Marek Hauszyl: "Not Only for Dollars"]

[Text] [Question] Allow me to describe to you a scene I had witnessed at the Ursyn Megasam [Mega-Supermarket] in Warsaw. Among the many stalls one stood out owing to its especially attractive variety of merchandise and colorful advertisement. An elderly man approached and wanted to buy Suchard chocolate, lemon juice, and coffee. The salesgirl wrote out the bill, but when it came time to pay there was consternation. That man apparently did not realize that it was a PEWEX stall, where sales are not in zlotys but in dollars or coupons. The sale was of course canceled. I'll not repeat to you the curses and maledictions hurled against the management of the Megasam, and especially against your company, for misleading customers and tempting them with goods which not everyone can buy, thus dividing people into two classes, a superior and an inferior one. You realize that there are many other accusations against PEWEX....

[Answer] The activities of internal export enterprises [as published] continue to stir the emotions of a large segment of the society, which compares the gray quotidian retail-trade reality with the broad variety of merchandise available at PEWEX and BALTONA stores. This kind of confrontation also prompts the public to feel that in a socialist country there should be no stores in which convertible currencies are the only acceptable tender. However, few people realize that it is owing to the foreign exchange earned by PEWEX that the supply situation in state-operated retail trade is improving, that the supplies of tea, coffee, spices, citrus fruits, detergent powders, pantyhose, and other imported merchandise are increasing.

[Question] This argument is quite widely known, but are there additional reasons for the existence of PEWEX?

[Answer] I have quite a few in my quiver, but it is the economic arguments that are the most important. In 1986 we sold US\$370 million worth of merchandise; of this amount we paid 55 percent to the State Treasury and kept the remaining 45 percent for purchasing new merchandise and partially to defray operating costs. In a situation when a maximally favorable balance

sheet of exports is our primary concern, the profits yielded by PEWEX matter significantly to the government. Please bear in mind that, according to estimates by Ministry of Finance experts, the nontrivial amount of more than US\$3 billion is kept in personal savings accounts and wallets in this country. Suppose we shut down PEWEX. What would this mean to citizens desirous of purchasing particular goods for convertible currencies? It would mean the necessity of traveling abroad and making purchases there, because in Poland there would be no such possibility. You see, it is thanks to us and the merchandise we offer that that money remains in the country.

[Question] Not quite, because a considerable amount of foreign exchange that could have been earned by PEWEX is being spent by our tourists in the FRG, Greece, Turkey, India, or Thailand, where the prices of similar merchandise are much lower.

[Answer] Could you name specific examples?

[Question] The entire range of textiles and leather goods, radio and television appliances, or computers....

[Answer] And perhaps also cosmetics, food products, liquor, cigarettes, or condiments.

[Question] You mention the most attractive offerings of PEWEX, because the prices it charges for them are actually competitive with Western prices. But could you answer my question?

[Answer] Undoubtedly we are the losers so far as the "rags business" is concerned, and indeed those looking for clothing or haberdashery in Istanbul, Delhi, or Bangkok can find cheaper and more attractively designed goods. But they are not always of good quality, and the buyer cannot be certain that, once a sweater or a blouse is washed, it won't shrink or become discolored. We try to buy the same kinds of goods from more reputable companies which provide guarantees and warranties for the quality of their products. As for the sheepskins and leather goods from Turkey, we are purposely not selling them because, once the season is over, we would have to replace 90 percent of them or pay refunds to the customers. Not without reason, Polish dry-cleaning establishments hang out notices that they accept no responsibility for dry-cleaning these Turkish goods.

[Question] Let us now consider radio and television appliances. At Moszkowicz's in Hamburg a Hitachi or Sanyo VCR can be bought for 600-800 DM, and a 14-inch Sony television set for a similar price. This seems to be cheaper than at PEWEX, doesn't it?

[Answer] Nonsense, utter balderdash. Buying at Moszkowicz's or at other stores of that kind may save the purchaser a few dollars, but if you consider the cost of transportation, customs duty, conversion, and the absence of any warranty whatsoever, it may turn out that it is cheaper to buy at PEWEX. Besides, the customers themselves have realized this. In effect, in the last 2 years the sales of VCR's in our stores have mushroomed to more than 50,000 units annually from 500. We offer a broad variety of radio and television

appliances, and such brands as Sanyo, Panasonic, NEC, and Sony are guarantees of good world level, reliability, and high quality. This also applies to computer equipment -- the sales of Atari computers are rising each month.

[Question] Still, there remain some unanswered questions. Fairly often, PEWEX gets its supplies from middlemen rather than from producers, and perhaps this may be the reason for its high prices.

[Answer] Generally speaking, we sign agreements directly with producers, and it is they who supply us with merchandise. But this is not always possible, and then we have to use middlemen. For example, the Japanese concern Matsushita Corporation markets radio and television appliances through the mediation of Mitsubishi Company, which has exclusive rights to market Panasonic, National, and Technics products in Europe. We try to negotiate prices optimally advantageous to us, but, this being trade, sometimes competitors undersell us by a few points. An old mercantile principle is that sometimes it pays to lose a little in order to profit subsequently. Hence, we proceed from the premise that it is not worthwhile to acquire low-cost merchandise that is of definitely lower quality. Such an orientation is bound to be a losing one. For example, we prefer to acquire radio and television appliances from Japanese, because they are more reliable than their somewhat cheaper counterparts from South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, or Hongkong.

[Question] Perhaps then the price levels of many goods sold at PEWEX are influenced by your excessively high profit margins?

[Answer] That also is an exaggeration. To be sure, we are not a charitable institution and we must not only earn our keep but also make a profit, but let me say that our profit margins vary depending on the nature of merchandise. For example, the margins for electronic audio-video equipment range at 40 to 50 percent, and this also applies to the margins for household equipment, automotive accessories, and gardening equipment. Our highest margins, up to 100 and more percent) apply to alcoholic beverages, followed by cosmetics (70 to 90 percent) and, within a similar range, knitwear goods and clothing.

[Question] This is not little.

[Answer] But they are not too high, because trading companies in Western countries apply similar profit margins. We also have to bear in mind that private imports represent a kind of competition to the prices we dictate. In this confrontation we remain on the defensive -- so far.

[Question] But don't you think that the price of alcohol affects tremendously the high exchange rate paid for PEWEX coupons? Following the latest price increase the exchange rate for the dollar has soared to 1,000 zlotys and the price of half a liter of rye vodka at present is 1,040 zlotys, whereas at PEWEX stores it remains US\$1.00.

[Answer] The price of vodka undoubtedly influences the "black-market" exchange rate for the dollar, because alcoholic beverages account for 20 percent of our sales volume. But let me add that car prices are just as influential. The most

influential factor, however, is personal imports and the actual profitability of the goods that it is worthwhile to bring it from foreign countries.

[Question] For the last 3 years BALTONA stores have also been operating as an alternative to PEWEX. Do you fear their competition?

[Answer] Competition can only be healthy, and its effects already are becoming tangible to customers, with respect to radio and television appliances, for example. After BALTONA had imported cheaper VCR's, we had to reduce the prices of Japanese equipment. We shall see what happens next. At any rate, we have picked up the gauntlet and are trying to make our merchandise even more attractive.

[Question] Perhaps then you'll also begin to compete with POLMOT and start selling cars?

[Answer] Why not, but that depends chiefly on the market capacity. If we get an interesting offer from a foreign supplier, it cannot be ruled out. What matters most is profitability.

[Question] What proportion of sales is made in convertible currencies, and what proportion in dollar- and ruble-zone merchandise coupons?

[Answer] Forty percent of sales is in coupons and 60 percent in convertible currencies. But as for the origins of these coupons, that is hard for me to say. You can obtain that information from the Ministry of Finance.

[Question] Why do PEWEX stores offer so little Polish-made merchandise?

[Answer] That again is a question of the public's response. We often wonder whether this is sensible or will be criticized. To be sure, there should be many people willing to pay in convertible currencies or coupons for domestically manufactured household power appliances, attractively designed clothing and haberdashery, chocolate, or sheepskin furcoats. Were this possibility to arise, we could within a week start offering a much broader range of Polish-made goods in PEWEX stores.

[Question] Many people come to PEWEX stores for merchandise whose prices have been marked down and are disappointed to find that the markdowns are not substantial, amounting at times to US\$5.00-10.00 for products worth US\$100.00-200.00

[Answer] Price markdowns apply to minimally damaged merchandise whose utility remains unimpaired and which is provided with warranties. For example, we reduce by US\$20 the price of a radio-tape recorder costing US\$200, if there is a scratch on it or if a knob is missing. If, however, the damage is lasting, the question of a price markdown simply does not arise. After all, no one would buy a pair of broken skis or a television set with a malfunctioning picture tube.

[Question] PEWEX customers still have many grievances about the insufficient supply of spare parts for the equipment they purchase, the quality and

promptness of servicing, the slowness with which merchandise claims are resolved, the crowding near the counters, the long queues in front of the cashier, and the deficient courtesy of sales personnel.

[Answer] Well, I admit that this is our fault and it also affects the manner in which the performance of our enterprise is viewed. The problem is growing, because the variety of merchandise offered and the volume of sales are growing. I can only promise that we shall try to eliminate these shortcomings. We want to relieve the overcrowding in our stores and open new stores, but this largely depends on the assistance of local authorities.

[Question] Let me play the devil's advocate: You are speaking of an expansion of the network of stores, but this concomitantly means the growth of the "black market" in front of PEWEX stores. The speculators can only rub their hands with glee.

[Answer] Let me surprise you. For some time now we have been wondering how to cope with the issue of the para-convertibility [as published] of the zloty or, to put it more plainly, how to enable every citizen to make purchases in our stores.

[Question] With zlotys?

[Answer] We are thinking of attaching to PEWEX stores currency-exchange counters buying convertible currencies and selling merchandise coupons at free-market prices according to daily quotations of the rate of exchange, which would be competitive with the quotations on the "black market." Suppose that one day the rate of exchange for the dollar or other hard currency is 950 zlotys and a merchandise coupon costs 940 zlotys, while another day, depending on the demand, that rate is set higher or lower.

[Question] You are announcing a veritable revolution, not only in the operations of PEWEX but in the entire traditional system of turnover in convertible currencies, and this means bankruptcy for hundreds of speculators. When can this happen?

[Answer] Talks on this subject among the ministries of finance, interior commerce, and foreign trade are continuing. It may be that corresponding regulations will be soon drafted and as early as this year, in the fall, we shall see this happen. In this way the sails of the opponents of PEWEX will be trimmed and our stores would simply become stores selling luxury goods.

1386

CSO: 2600/590

BRIEFS

SOVIET SPECIALISTS AT 'IGLOPOL'--(Own information) Early in March 1987 an economic delegation from the USSR visited Poland. It was headed by Professor A. A. Nikonov, deputy chairman of the USSR State Agricultural-Industrial Committee and president of the USSR Academy of Agricultural Sciences. The visitors toured, among other places, the IGLOPOL Agricultural-Industrial Combine in Debica. Following his return to the Soviet Union Prof A. A. Nikonov commented that the IGLOPOL Combine is a modern multipurpose enterprise which has no equal in the socialist countries. On familiarizing themselves with the Combine's operations, and bearing in mind the continued improvements in the system of the guidance and management of agriculture, the Soviet specialists principally paid attention to the linkage between the IGLOPOL's agricultural production and processing, and to the skillful linkage of the interests of a state enterprise to the interests of private agricultural producers. They also evaluated highly the incentive system at the IGLOPOL, its linkage to science and technology progress, and the manner in which the problems of social services and living conditions of the workforces were resolved. Prof A. A. Nikonov declared that he has presented a report on the IGLOPOL Combine to the heads of the Gosagroprom (USSR State Agricultural Industry) and to the CPSU Central Committee, in which he proposed that, provided that Minister S. Zieba gives his consent, the IGLOPOL Combine opens a school to which Soviet specialists, organizers of major agricultural enterprises, be assigned for practical training. Thus, there is a possibility that Soviet experts will learn from the positive example of the IGLOPOL how to improve their knowledge of the organization and management of the agricultural and food industry. This is yet another positive example of closer Polish-Soviet cooperation in the economic domain. [Text] [By (wam)] [Krakow GAZETA KRAKOWSKA in Polish 24 Apr 87 pp 1,7] 1386

JAPANESE EQUIPMENT TO PRODUCE RESISTORS--In the renovated, parquet-floored hall of the TELPOD stand several rows of glittering machinery. The blue casings bear the nameplate TOKYO WELD. This is the factory's latest acquisition -- two new Japanese assembly lines for the production of resistors. They are, or more properly they will be, four times as productive as the currently operating Polish-built lines. Our entire electronics industry depends on the TELPOD's resistors. Suffice it to mention that a single color television set contains approximately 700 elements of this kind. The Krakow factory and its affiliate in Zabno manufactured 470 million resistors last year. In addition, 150 million were purchased from Yugoslavia and the USSR. The Japanese lines

can produce 100 million resistors annually, which is equal to 500 units a minute or more than 80 units per second! [as published] The quality of domestically manufactured materials elicits certain apprehensions. Japanese use a steel tape with a rough tolerance of 5,000th of a millimeter. Polish steel plants are incapable of achieving such precision, and hence the tape produced at the Lenin Steel Plant will be sent for finishing to the Metallurgical Processing Plant in Bochnia, while the ceramic components will be produced wherever possible. As for wire, the uneven thickness of the tin coating may prove troublesome. So far as lacquer is concerned, the Japanese pledged themselves contractually to provide a shipment of lacquer that should suffice for a year. The worst thing is that Polish industry, in which targets are computed in terms of tonnage, is not interested in providing the materials indispensable to electronics. The production of 200 million resistors requires 15-20 tons of steel tape, 32 tons of wire, and 1.2 tons of lacquer. To a large steel plant or a chemical combine such quantities are so tiny as to be ridiculous, yet manufacturing these products is a troublesome process, because they have to meet high quality requirements. Immediately after the Holidays the first team of technicians from Japan will arrive at TELPOD in order to put the new equipment into operation; it will commence normal operation in May. The lines were acquired with government funds and the related outlays should be recouped within 2 years. This year TELPOD will manufacture 640 million resistors and next year, approximately 840 million. [Text] [By (ar)] [Krakow ECHO KRAKOWA in Polish 14 Apr 87 pp 1,2] 1386

CSO: 2600/590

BLACK MARKET IN FOREIGN CURRENCY EXAMINED

Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 1 Mar 87 p 7

[Article by Salih Zvizdic]

[Text] There is no doubt that in our country the black market in foreign currencies is a reality and we have to talk about it because the buyers and sellers of those foreign currencies are first of all the result of the existing merchandise and monetary relations in our country.

Imagine a Yugoslav, a common ordinary citizen, who has not worked abroad or who does not have any foreign exchange that he has earned in any other legal way, and who needs foreign exchange in order to be able to buy, either from abroad or in Yugoslavia on a consignment basis, some medicine, equipment, semi-finished goods for further processing, machinery and the like.

There are two ways that this unfortunate person can get foreign exchange. The first way is for him to get the foreign exchange in a bank, which is completely impossible, even though it is permitted under the law. The other way is for him to procure the foreign exchange on the black market, a method which is widely resorted to but is legally prohibited.

Article 77 of our Law on Foreign Exchange stipulates that "authorized banks may sell foreign exchange to meet the needs of citizens and civil juridical persons in the area of health insurance and education, for travel and moving expenses abroad, to pay for legal and other costs abroad, to secure patent rights and to pay for membership dues in international organizations, and in other cases prescribed by the Federal Executive Council."

Consequently, if you fulfill the above-mentioned conditions you can buy foreign currencies in a bank with dinars, provided that the bank has foreign exchange available for those purposes.

Illogical Price for the Dinar

Foreign currencies are usually not available or else they are not available for all of the people who are trying to buy them.

What is the situation in the black market, however? This is prohibited by law. Since January 1 of this year the penalties have become stiffer. Even some offenses which were previously punished as violations are now prosecuted as criminal acts. Indeed, Article 66 of the Law on Foreign Exchange states that "it is prohibited to buy, sell, give as a gift, lend or hand over for safeguarding any foreign exchange between Yugoslav nationals and Yugoslav nationals and foreign persons, unless otherwise stipulated under the law."

Article 167 of the Federal Criminal Law is still stricter: "Anyone who, contrary to federal regulations, shall buy, sell or exchange gold coins, foreign currencies, foreign exchange or gold in a value of more than 50,000 dinars shall be sentenced to a prison term of up to three years."

The secret is out that there are many of us out there who buy and sell foreign currencies and that such transactions take place everywhere, even in offices, apartments, in the streets, in coffee shops.

Recently, the Maribor newspaper VECER [Evening Herald] published quite a comprehensive account, under the title "How the country tries to catch its its own tail," on black market operations in the city of Maribor [Slovenia]. The author of that article, Uros Mencinger, wrote that Maribor is well known as one of the biggest centers in Yugoslavia for black market operations in foreign currencies.

The article also openly speaks of black market currencies and states that after nine years "black market operations are drying up." Foreign currencies are just not available for sale, even though more and more dinars are being offered to buy them. There are no longer any regular advertisements in the VECER newspaper seeking out buyers of foreign exchange in specific figures, but announcements that are made by word of mouth are gaining strength as compared to previously. Nevertheless, there is less and less foreign currency available to buy on the black market, not only in the city of Maribor, but also in other places where such "wild" [uncontrolled] foreign currency transactions take place.

Foreign exchange is sold in our country at prices which are 10, 15 and as much as 20 percent higher than the official rate, depending upon the supply and demand and also depending upon who is selling and to whom he is selling and how essential the foreign currency is. These elements are indeed characteristics of a free market. There is no doubt that our prices for currencies in the black market bear a special relationship with the price of the dinar in neighboring countries, even though the price of the dinar in those countries is determined primarily by local speculators in accordance with the supply and the tourist season, and the rate is as a rule lower than the real rate for the dinar.

At present, for example, Austrian banks and currency exchanges will exchange 100 of our dinars for 0.80 schilling, which means that they demand as many as 5.55 dinars for one schilling, even though our real exchange rate for the schilling [in cash] is 36.92 dinars. Consequently, the exchange

rate in Austria is 50.46 percent less favorable than our official exchange rate for the schilling. This is indeed not a realistic situation because for that many dinars we can buy more and more of a variety of goods right here in our own country.

Austrian merchants near the border also have become aware of this unrealistic situation and they exchange schillings for persons wanting to buy their goods at a rate which is "only" 35 and 40 percent more unfavorable than the exchange rate for the dinar in Austrian banks and currency exchanges. The situation is the same in the case of Italian lira, which also have dual foreign exchange rates, one in the currency exchanges and the other in shops in the city of Trieste, Italy. In the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Switzerland, and a number of other countries of Western Europe, as well as in the United States of America, dinars may be purchased in banks and currency exchanges at an exchange rate which is now about 45 to 50 percent less favorable than our official exchange rate, even though the upcoming tourist season will improve the exchange rate for the dinar, as is already a customary phenomenon.

Foreign Exchange Out, Dinars Back

A special illegal form of money transactions developed in some border towns and other places in our country, so that our black market operators go there with schillings, West German marks, dollars or some other Western currency and they buy dinars from Austrian or Italian merchants near the border at prices that are much more favorable than those offered in the banks and currency exchanges. They bring those dinars into Yugoslavia, and here in Yugoslavia they once again buy foreign exchange with them, so that they can then sell them again at a higher price abroad and thus obtain a profit. By this method they make profits of hundreds of millions of dinars. Illegal crossings of the border are also included with the network of such transactions.

Some brokers or middlemen from neighboring Western countries have developed a specific system of trading in dinars. Fridays and Saturdays the leave for the local bus and train stations where our workers arrive for their weekly vacation back home. They sell dinars to the workers at a price which is more favorable than what the workers would obtain in the local banks. A large proportion of the dinars from trade along the border is handled in this way. The remaining dinars end up in the big European banks which then sell them wholesale to smaller banks from the entire world, primarily to meet the needs of tourism, and private and business trips in our country.

Even the Most Scrupulous Sin

Private clearinghouse operations in Yugoslavia have unfortunately become our reality. It is difficult, if not absolutely impossible to put an end to this practice through administrative measures or foreign currency inspection or through the actions of enforcement agencies. Sometimes even the most conscientious and scrupulous citizen has to obtain foreign currency at any cost, and since he is not able to buy it in his own bank he tries to find a way to get it in the black market.

How many cases of this and similar types do we have here in Yugoslavia?

It is a certainty that "wild" or unauthorized foreign exchange operations disturb the relations between goods and money in society. They also make it possible for some individuals to earn big profits without actually working. In any event, this merits social condemnation. In recent times, after signs that the foreign exchange was drying up in the "wild" market (things are not better in the "tame" market for foreign exchange), the profits made by middlemen remain enormous. The secret is out that here in our country West German marks are now being sold at 350 dinars per mark (even as much as 400 dinars). This is 35 percent higher than the official exchange rate, although in German banks you can obtain no more than 300 dinars for a Deutsche mark.

The circulation of foreign exchange in the private clearing system flows into our country primarily from two sources. One source is our own "foreigners"; and the other source, which is not less significant, is tourism. According to some estimates, each year approximately two billion Deutsche marks end up in private pockets from tourism, primarily along the shores of the Adriatic Sea.

Because of the high level of inflation and the low interest rates that are paid on savings, which are about 25 percent lower than the rate of inflation, the dinar has lost strength to such an extent that it is practically no longer worthwhile to have any savings in it. This situation is also reflected by the amount saved at the national level.

Indeed, at the present time the domestic savings accounts of our people amount to a total of about 6,650 billion dinars (naturally this figure is expressed in new dinars), and 4,655 billion dinars of that figure or 72 percent is in foreign currencies (about 9.5 billion dollars), whereas a total of 1,995 billion in savings are in dinars (for purposes of comparison, the annual budget of Yugoslavia comes to 1,964 billion dinars). Savings in foreign currencies are on the rise. This is a reflection of the confidence by the people in their country, but also reveals their lack of confidence in the dinar. According to some estimates, about 80 percent of the foreign exchange in the foreign currency savings of Yugoslav nationals was purchased in the black market. All of these figures are quite startling.

The low and unreal interest rates discourage people from holding their savings in dinars and these rates prevail even though the "real interest rates on savings" are guaranteed by the Resolution on the Uniform Criteria of Yugoslavia's Monetary and Currency Policy. In that resolution, however, an oversight was committed, perhaps unintentionally, since it is stipulated that interest rates ("real" interest rates) shall be formed on the basis of the developments taking place in producer prices, and it would have been quite different if they were formed based on inflation. Last year, producer prices rose by 60 percent and inflation was increasing at the rate of 85 percent. Those 25 percentage points amount indeed to the percentage by which the savings in dinars experienced a loss in value as the result of the unreal interest rates.

Foreign Currencies Transferred Into Savings Accounts

Under such conditions, which were also intensified by some other weaknesses of the market mechanism, it is easy to understand the eagerness on the part of the people to shift dinars into foreign currencies wherever possible, since in our situation foreign currencies are as good as gold. Recently, in the Yugoslav Assembly the president of the Associated Bank of Croatia, Tomislav Badovinac, said that of the total potential in our banks about 40 percent comes from citizens and only 17 percent from the economy. This is a unique paradox.

The shortage of foreign exchange in our black market was also worsened by a tax provision of the West German Ministry of Finance which was applied to all foreign workers, including Yugoslavian workers, in that country. In effect, in the last six months our workers in the Federal Republic of Germany (and that is where the largest number of our people work) have been required to show to the authorities of the "Finanzamt" (Finance Office) the stub of postal money orders, indicating how many Deutsche marks they sent to their native land to provide for their family. The more Deutsche marks they send in this way the greater tax exemptions they are eligible for in Yugoslavia. Deutsche marks and other currencies which are sent from abroad and which are placed in postal money orders in Yugoslavia are paid out to the beneficiaries in dinars. If the beneficiaries so desire, however, they may also deposit those marks and other currencies into their foreign exchange account in our country. This is better for the country, but this is also the reason for a reduction in the flow of foreign exchange into the "wild" foreign exchange market from "foreigners" who before had mostly brought the foreign currencies into Yugoslavia in the form of cash.

It is obvious that a real exchange rate for the dinar and a real interest rate on dinar-denominated savings could considerably reduce the harmful effect of the private clearing mechanism on the flow of foreign exchange into Yugoslavia. Why would someone buy foreign currency in the black market if his dinars deposited in a savings account could, thanks to the real interest rate, retain their real value in the face of inflation's fury? Recently in a reply to a question posed by a delegate in the Assembly of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the President of the Federal Executive Council said that "it is necessary to fight against the private clearing phenomenon by applying economic measures above all." Radovan Makic, a member of the Federal Executive Council, assured the delegates of the Assembly of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia that the Federal Executive Council "will increase the real interest rate paid on savings in dinars." Nenad Krekic, The Federal Secretary for Foreign Trade, stated at the International Trade Fair on Leather and Clothing just held in Zagreb, that the Federal Executive Council will be "persistent in carrying out the policy of real interest rates for the dinar." Thus, we do have promises.

Finally, let us also cite Miran Mejak, a delegate to the Federal Council of the Assembly of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, who,

insisting that the private clearing mechanism should be opposed, said that we can obtain victory in our struggle against this type of disruption in Yugoslavia's monetary policy only by means of a real interest rate for the dinar, which would also put an end to the destructive force of the so-called exchange rate differences and the problems in the trade in foreign currencies and in the dinar savings of our citizens.

13272/9835

CSO: 2800/167

ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION, ON-THE-JOB DRUNKENNESS DOWN IN 1987

Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 10 Apr 87 p 3

[Interview with the Hungarian Government Spokesman, Rezso Banyasz, by Andras Deak: "What Preparations Did the Government Make for the Reorganization of Workers?"]

[Text] The first question asked by the reporter from the NEPSZAVA concerned the human circumstances surrounding the structural transformation of industry. The data and percentages mentioned cannot conceal the fact that the proposed measures--the elimination of jobs, the reorganization of the workforce--affect the fate and livelihood of the workers, and imply innumerable conflicts.

[Question] "What precautions has the government taken, and how are the proposed measures coordinated with the trade unions?"

[Answer] "I am completely in agreement with the criticism implied in the question. I myself do not enjoy playing around with figures, even though it is not possible to discuss economic processes in a reliable manner without them. Let me mention a fact regarding on-going consultation with the trade unions. The representative of the National Council of Trade Unions [NCTU] has been invited to attend every meeting of the Council of Ministers, and he expresses the opinions of the trade unions on every important matter, whenever he deems it warranted. Moreover, there is regular consultation between the government and the chairmanship of the National Council of Labor Unions, as well as with the leading organs of the NCTU.

In regard to structural change in industry and the issue of job and human conflicts, I believe there can be no doubt that such large-scale projects, which may affect hundreds of employment positions and thousands of workers, could never be realized entirely free of conflict. As I already mentioned, the Council of Ministers at its meetings, took note of the measures regarding structural change undertaken so far, and of the outcome of these measures, and urged the acceleration of the process underway. It did this with the conviction that the workers, engineers, and supervisors would understand that these measures are unavoidable and serve the greater happiness of society in the long run. Hopefully the movements of the workforce will result in a reorientation from inefficient sectors to areas that provide greater profits, and produce greater values. This process extends to the production of energy, to the chemical industry as well as to the production of agricultural and

food processing machinery among others. Research is underway in the machine industry as well regarding the eventual elimination of profiles that are not compatible with its basic activities. In the chemical industry they want to stop the manufacture of certain outdated products. In light industry they would like to decrease the proportion of models that require a large investment of raw materials, but are not highly dependent on fashion-friends. In other words, the process of structural change will foreseeably affect many workers. But I would like to emphasize that we are not following a capitalist road; nobody in this country will close down plants employing ten thousand workers, and 10 percent of the workforce will not be left out on the street, as it has already happened in certain West European countries. In our country everyone will have work; nobody will be left without a job. In this respect the government is carefully weighing every problem, every step taken, and discusses these with all interested parties, including the trade unions."

The NEPSZAVA reporter's other question concerned the application of the government program on health protection adopted six months ago, with special reference to the proclaimed fight against alcoholism.

[Answer] "So far I cannot give you a report on a significant decrease in the consumption of alcohol, but I can tell you about favorable trends. As a result of the central directives aimed at limiting the consumption of alcoholic beverages, as well as of propaganda and social persuasion, the trade in alcoholic beverages did decrease by a few percentage points. Compared to the first three months of last year, shipments of bottled hard liquor dropped by 17 percent, whereas shipments of unbottled alcoholic beverages dropped by 20 percent. Another fortunate trend is that there has been a decrease in the number of traffic accidents caused by drunk driving and especially in the number of such accidents resulting in fatalities. The head of the National Labor Protection and Labor Issues Chief Superintendency briefed us the other day on information about the decrease of drinking at the workplace, fewer incidents of intoxicated persons at the machines and in the offices. On March 18 and 19 we held a nation-wide survey. Almost 34,000 persons were examined with a breath analyzer; 765 were found intoxicated. We examined some 17,000 of those who work in hazardous positions, and 3 percent of them had to be penalized, that is, sent home. The labor protection supervisors visited the leaders of 707 economic units, and observed intoxication in only two instances. Unfortunately, from among the 5,700 work group leaders and foremen 61 had taken alcohol during the two days of the survey. On the whole, 2.2 percent of the workers were found intoxicated in the course of the March survey, whereas a year earlier the ratio had been 3.7 percent. Just for the sake of comparison: in 1985 the figure was 9.1 percent.

We are not deluding ourselves; we are well aware that it takes a long time to change ingrained bad human and social habits. A lot remains to be done. In the course of the year the National Labor Protection and Labor Issues Superintendency will conduct further surveys, but I would like to add, that all this is no substitute for propaganda at the social level, for the warning words of supervisors, colleagues, and friends."--concluded the government spokesman in response to the questions of NEPSZAVA reporter.

13348/9716

CSO: 2500/324

SOCIOLOGIST VIEWS 'SOCIETY VS AUTHORITIES' PROBLEM

Warsaw KULTURA PZPR in Polish No 3, 21 Jan 87 pp 1,6

[Interview with Professor Dr Wladyslaw Markiewicz by Alicja Kos: "We and They"]

[Text] [Question] In Poland there exists an explicit division between the society and the authorities, and recently it has been to some extent refracted in the mass media. In other words, it is a division between "us" and "them." It may perhaps ensue from the fact that during the formative period of the present-day Polish nation, between the 17th (as published) and 19th centuries, Poland had not existed as a sovereign state, although perhaps the reasons may be traceable to more ancient history. Whatever its validity, this polar opposition between "us" and "them" implies that the society as a whole is a kind of united or integrated body. In your opinion, is this a purely instrumental imputation, or can the present-day Polish society be indeed thus characterized?

[Answer] This cannot hold true for any country in which exist class divisions and contradictions and the attendant conflicting group interests, expectations, and aspirations. For objective reasons it is not possible (unless perhaps when the circumstances are totally exceptional) for a situation to arise in which the society as a cohesive whole is opposed to the authorities as a totally isolated and alien force imposed on the society and by the same token incapable of understanding and representing the society's needs and aspirations. Even in Poland's Partition Period there had arisen the phenomenon of the so-called trilateralism (i.e., loyalty to the three partitioning powers — Germany, Austria, and Tsarist Russia), based on the belief of the most influential segment of the Polish propertied classes that both their own interests and the preservation of the national substance as well as the creation of conditions for the eventual recovery of statehood and sovereignty require acceptance of and cooperation with otherwise disliked or even hated partitioning powers.

In our modern conditions the construct "WE, the integrated society, and THEY, the alienated authorities," should be regarded as purely artificial and misleading. Essentially, it constitutes a new and more subversive version of the thesis, intensively propagated in the 1970's, of the supposed attainment of the moral-political unity of the nation. The difference consists in that

the doctrinaires of those days regarded the authorities as a nucleus for consolidating the nation, whereas the present-day manipulators regard the rejection of the authorities as precisely the strongest element uniting the nation. The rather strong grip of the schema "We versus they" on public opinion ensues from, on the one hand, the persistence of the so-called false awareness among certain social circles, including the workers, and, on the other, from premeditated political action. Its purpose is to discredit the socialist system of society as being allegedly "by nature" incompetent and unreformable.

[Question] Opinion surveys indeed indicate that Poles are united on some issues and divided on others. Contradictions between constituencies, groups, and classes, clearly emerge, although of course they do so differently than in the past. In your opinion, what are the principal and most influential factors integrating present-day Poles? And which ones should be exploited in propaganda at present?

[Answer] Issues and factors uniting Poles regardless of the differences in their views and mindsets are quite numerous. After all, there are no fundamental differences among us in our views on such existential questions as the maintenance of world peace, the preservation of our nationhood and statehood, respect for the fundamental social ideals of socialism -- that is, equality, justice, and legality -- combatting manifestations of demoralization and social pathology, etc.

The most important issue, however, is that the commonly acknowledged values should govern our public life not just -- as unfortunately happens most often -- as feast-day verbal declarations; that they become the flesh and blood of our quotidian actions. Here I refer to actions at all levels, in all dimensions, and in all the domains of our collective civic existence.

This concerns chiefly keeping faith with words in deeds, in quotidian conduct, because this above all decides an authentic rather than a seeming integration of the society. This is by no means a simple postulate, and it is not up to the highest-level political decisionmakers alone whether this postulate will be translated into reality in a satisfactory manner. For illustration, suffice it to consider the problem of equality, which has recently again become the subject of lively debates in connection with the urgent, or properly speaking now extremely urgent, need to activate stimuli and incentives awakening the spirit of innovativeness and spurring honest work. The socialist requirement of equality is in the popular view equated with three meals for everybody, and this is certainly not conducive to diligent and honest toil, and hence this creates the peril of an economic catastrophe and complete pauperization of the society in the not distant future. In its turn, however, abandoning this oversimplified view of the principle of equality and justice is definitely bound to cause social dissensions complicating the integration of the society.

[Question] Various symbols and events have acted as integrative factors at various moments in history. After the war, for example, there was the reconstruction of the country and our western frontier. Many students of the society claim that in general our cultural and historical heritage is the most integrating factor to Poles. Thus, assuming that integrative processes display

a certain continuity, what historical events would you single out in this context? And what events can sensibly be still referred to nowadays in view of the goals we are posing to the society?

[Answer] As I mentioned previously, a complete integration of a class society -- and we still continue to be such a society -- is impossible, although this is the goal to be aspired to, though of course not by concealing or camouflaging the existing contradictions and differences. Quite assuredly, reconstructing the country from its wartime devastation and the need to defend Polish rights to the Western Territories had influenced overwhelmingly the course of sociopolitical processes in the reborn Poland: they assuaged the sharpness of the struggle to establish the new people's-democratic order of society which would otherwise have acquired the nature of a tragic civil war, and they made it easier to tolerate poverty and make occasional sacrifices for the sake of translating into reality the vision of the future prosperous and modern Poland.

Undoubtedly also the historical awareness awakened in the nation and the attachment to its own cultural heritage, especially to the heroic-martyrological traditions, helped Poles to unite themselves in the struggle against the vicissitudes of a destiny that has for the most part been adverse to them. At the same time, social theorists cannot reach a consensus on what patriotic traditions should serve us as the wellsprings of our will and ability to endure and survive, and of our desire to perpetuate our national identity and statehood: should they be the traditions of our national insurrections and executions, or should they be the traditions of positivist and organic work? In my opinion, in the times we are living in, when, as Jozef Pilsudski would say, a contest of labor rather than a contest of blood and iron, is decisive to the state of the nation and its standing in the world, preference should be given to traditions of good work.

[Question] Since the history of the Polish nation has not always overlapped, so to speak, with the history of the Polish state, in your opinion what promotes national integration more: situations in which statehood is either absent (as for example during the Partition Period) or weak and the integrative processes occur "in opposition to external factors" as it were, or periods of strong and stable statehood?

As Jozef Chalasiński [1905-1974, sociologist, professor at Warsaw University, author of "Culture and Nation"] said, so long as the stage of nationhood continues in the history of mankind, and everything indicates that it will still last for a very long period, nations will justly continue to regard their own independent and sovereign statehood as a supreme good and value. During the Partition Period the Polish nation had retained the feeling of unity to the extent to which it believed and cherished the hope that, as used to be said at the time, Poland will be resurrected, meaning that it will regain its lost independence and statehood.

If the experience of history is to teach precisely us Poles anything, it is that we should guard our statehood like the apple of our eye and be concerned for the prosperity and strength of the state. Fortunately, it was possible in recent years to definitely -- I believe -- eliminate from the process of

political education sectarian opinions on the subject of Polish statehood in the interwar period. We refer nowadays without sarcasm and with due respect to the Second Republic [1919-1939] and acknowledge, despite the critical attitude toward it, its indisputable contributions to salvaging and perpetuating our national identity. All the more so, following the September [1939] tragedy and the inhuman Hitlerite occupation, we should protect the majesty of the People's Republic in the awareness that without it the nation would be doomed to extinction or disintegration and would sooner or later forfeit the foundations for its existence.

[Question] In Poland's postwar history, that is during the 40 years of the shaping of the socialist society, there occurred at least three crises (1956 [workers' bread riots in Poznan], 1970 [the Gdansk massacre of workers], and 1980 [the rise of Solidarity]). How can the relationship between these crises and the level of social integration be described? How would you assess in this context the post-crisis periods?

In the last few years the genesis, course, and consequences of the Polish crises, over which the former authorities had tried to hang the shroud of silence, have been discussed and written about extensively, but hardly anyone ever has so far tried to consider the relationship between these crises and the level of social integration as a separate subject for scholarly investigation. At any rate, I don't recollect any such instance at present, and hence please regard my answer as an intuitive one.

Thus, it seems to me that these crisis situations display the same characteristic as that discerned by Lenin with respect to revolutionary situations. Namely, they arise when the masses no longer tolerate their traditional mode of life, while the authorities do not know how to govern in a new manner. This would mean that while on one side the integration of the principal social classes, strata, and groups progresses, on the other side the disintegration of the "Establishment" progresses. That is, at some moment there arises a situation which we colloquially term the division between "us" and "them."

We had emerged from the crises in 1956 and 1970 owing to the immediate formation of a consensus between the society and the authorities, with the latter being reconstructed [replaced] under the pressure of the masses, and above all a consensus between the working class and its party. As time went on, however, combustible material began to accumulate and led to the next violent outbreak. The specificity of the 1980 crisis consisted in that the desired consensus had in reality never been reached. Hence also that crisis, and its attendant social unrest, became prolonged and inevitably led to a disintegration of structures of the state. To prevent the state's collapse, it was necessary to resort to extraordinary measures in the form of martial law. This in its turn resulted in another and, as known, still continuing prolongation of the process of attaining national consensus and national reconciliation.

[Question] In view of this, what do you consider to be adverse factors with respect to these processes? And is it worthwhile, from the propaganda standpoint, to discuss them publicly nowadays?

[Answer] The principal cause of misunderstandings and conflicts between the authorities and the society is to be perceived as lying in the underdevelopment of democratic structures in the operating system of our socialist state. Perhaps finally this time we shall prove capable of the tenacity and determination needed, in accordance with the resolutions of the 10th PZPR Congress, to effectively extirpate from our public life such things as proliferation of centralism, bureaucratic deformations, and the hydra-headed proneness at every level of the decisionmaking system toward governing by directives and administrative fiat. The society as a whole will be willing to identify itself with the state only when the executive and oversight powers of representative and self-government bodies are expanded and the influence of all kinds of voluntary organizations of working people, associations, and societies on the course of public affairs is increased. It must be admitted that never before has so much been accomplished to advance institutions assuring regular contacts and dialogue between the authorities and the society and promoting the ultimate formation of relations of equal partnership between them, as in the last few years. There is a need for an unremitting critical discussion of ways of refining and streamlining the activities of these institutions so that they may faithfully articulate the needs and expectations of citizens, and of ways of preventing their degeneration into fossilized make-believe forms enacting charades.

[Question] Which social-engineering measures at present exercise, in your opinion, special influence on stimulating integrative processes in the Polish society? Education? The shaping of political culture? Public opinion surveys and their analysis? And lastly, what role can be played by sociology in this field, considering that the interest of sociologists in shaping social awareness has recently been diminishing as it were?

[Answer] I refer to the idea voiced at the beginning of our interview: work, work, and once more work, is what should unite us nowadays. I mean well- and wisely-organized work following the principles which were theoretically substantiated precisely in Poland by such scholars as Zieleniewski, Kotarbinski, and other precursors and inventors of the scientific organization of labor, but which so far have not been introduced in practice. Actions in all the other diverse domains of civic intercourse should be subordinated to the paramount idea of elevating the work ethos to the highest pedestal of national-patriotic values. Whether this will happen is contingent on the economic reform, whose success depends on whether the restructuring of the national economy, and by the same token making labor more productive, can be accomplished within the shortest time possible.

I agree with you that sociologists too can make a weighty contribution to the cause of disseminating among the society the principles and requirements whose implementation is decisive to our future. However, in my opinion, the interest of Polish sociology in issues of social awareness has not at all diminished. At the recent Seventh All-Poland Congress of Sociologists in Wroclaw it was this issue that had prompted the most lively discussion.

[Question] Thank you for the interview.

REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH CENTER STUDIES SUICIDE RATES

Rzeszow NOWINY in Polish 14-15 Mar 87 p 4

[Article by Elzbieta Kolano: "The Desperate"]

[Excerpts] There is nothing of more value than human life, and for centuries all medical efforts have been subordinated to saving a person's life and extending it. The greatest crime, one which is not condoned by any contemporary ethical norms, is the taking of another person's life, committing murder, or attempting it. These same norms treat just as severely the act of suicide, which is becoming an increasing problem in the modern world.

Each day in our country, 14 persons try to take their life, and 12 of them succeed. When we multiply these figures by days, we find that in an average year we have 5,100 suicide attempts, and in more than 4,300 cases the attempt is successful. In comparison to other countries these data are not surprising, because in Hungary, for example, there are 50 suicides per 100,000 population, compared to 14 in Poland, but regardless of the extent of this phenomenon, any such incident should worry us, because it is a sign of human illness and tragedy.

Who decides to take such a drastic step, and why?

Of course all such generalizations somewhat oversimplify the problem, because people differ, and there are various causes that bring a person to the decision to bring life to a tragic end. Nonetheless, the statistics show certain relationships common to many suicides. Therefore we shall use data from Rzeszow Voivodship supplied by the Voivodship Office of Internal Affairs. In the case of each suicide or whenever it is found to have been attempted, the police conduct an investigatory proceeding, partly to determine whether the desperate act came under some sort of pressure, because such things do happen.

What then do the statistics tell us?

In 1986 there were 85 suicide attempts in Rzeszow Voivodship, 20 more than during the year before. In 73 cases, the attempt was successful, compared to 60 the previous year. The overwhelming majority of the people committing suicide were men, a fact typical throughout the world. In 1985 48 men and 17

women tried to take their life. A year later, there were 72 men and 13 women. All age groups were represented, but the largest percentage fell in the 31 to 50 year old age group. The second largest group, only slightly smaller, comprised people from 21 to 30 years of age, and the third, was 51 to 70 years of age, but there were also instances, unique cases, of suicide in persons more than 70 years of age or quite young, even children under 14.

Disease, especially psychiatric illness, was the most frequent cause of suicide, followed immediately by family failure, a broad concept covering both long-term conflicts, divorce, family abuse, and daily, seemingly minor misunderstandings sometimes exceeding the person's resistance. Very rarely, however, only once in 1985 and once the next year, the cause of suicide was an affair of the heart, which at one time was considered the most frequent cause for young people's taking their own life.

A sizeable percentage of suicides, however, remain mysteries. Last year, 28 of these tragic incidents were listed as "cause unknown." The truth never came to light supposedly because family, friends, and acquaintances interviewed either refused or were unable to provide the real causes of the drama. They refused, because in our country suicide is considered shameful, and it is difficult to discuss with outsiders. They were unable, because the sudden death of someone close came as a shock, something unexpected and unforeseen.

The statistics also list the manner in which the suicide was committed. Hangings are the most frequent, which explains why so many of the attempts ended in death. There were also cases of poisoning, overdoses of sleeping pills, jumping from high places, drownings, jumping in front of vehicles, and so on. Some of those attempting suicide could be saved, but, unfortunately, for the overwhelming majority, the death decision was the last one made in life.

What then is being done in Rzeszow Voivodship?

Dr Kazimierz Malik, for many years director of the psychiatric hospital in Jaroslaw and presently voivodship physician in Rzeszow, says: "It is important to us for people to have the right attitude towards our mental health clinics, so that they are no more hesitant to go to them for help than to go to other health centers. But the associations they have, owing to the fact that the society does not have much psychiatric knowledge, are often very unfair to the people who need the help and could get it, inasmuch as in our country there are a very large number of psychologists prepared to provide therapeutic help in crisis situations and various sorts of emotional upsets. Sometimes talking is enough for a person to give up a decision of desperation or the thought of it.

So too, in order to meet the people in need of such help, a telephone hot line has been set up at the Voivodship Mental Health Clinic since this past January. The phone number is given every day in NOWINY. A psychiatrist and a psychologist are on hand, and during the 3 months it has been in operation, there has been evidence of the great need for this form of assistance.

Since mid-January there has also been psychiatric emergency service to provide immediate assistance to patients who do not require in-patient treatment. In addition before the end of the year a home hospice group to act as an intermediate form of care between the out-patient clinic and the hospital is to be set up. It will deal with patients who can be treated at home with the active participation of the family and people in the immediate environment.

In the end, there is the issue of spreading psychiatric information. Dr Malik says that there are also plans to train physicians working in basic health care and the local and plant nurses working on the spot, to help them recognize psychiatric disturbances in their patients, but it is equally important to make these issues known among the ordinary lay population. Within the framework of health education, such information should be provided, for example, in the schools, among young people, partly in order to develop proper attitudes concerning peers with nervous disorders or emotional upsets and to teach the proper way to react to them. This may also be a way to avoid many tragedies, including suicide.

0790

CS0:2600/620

JOINT PROSECUTOR, 'MONAR' ACTION AGAINST DRUGS

Bialystok GAZETA WSPOLCZESNA in Polish 5 Mar 87 p 3

[Article by (h): "Drug Abuse and... Prohibitions"]

[Text] Drug abuse is something that causes justified anxiety, especially in view of the lowering of the age of persons dependent on and intoxicating themselves with various kinds of drugs and specifics. According to militia statistics, at the end of last year there were in Bialystok Voivodship 361 drug-dependent persons (including 69 women) maintaining some or other contact with the drug-addict community. Of these persons as many as 202 were below 24 years of age. And out of the total of 361, more than 100 persons neither attended school nor worked. Last year three deaths due to drug abuse or drug overdosing were recorded.

Drug abuse is, unfortunately, linked to crime. Last year, among other things, seven burglaries in health service institutions, 42 drug thefts, and 39 instances of falsification of medical prescriptions were recorded. Penal proceedings for drug production were taken against 16 persons, and for the distribution or sales of drugs, against four persons. In addition, proceedings on grounds of storage of drug-production equipment were initiated.

One way of limiting access to intoxicants is keeping a close watch over the existing cultivations of the poppy. To be sure, last year proceedings were initiated against 84 persons who evaded the duty of registering the fields on which they grew the poppy, but most of the cases were conditionally quashed. For it was considered that many farmers had not been informed about the obligations ensuing from the Decree on the Prevention of Drug Abuse.

As part of preventive actions conducted jointly with the MONAR [Young People's Movement to Combat Drug Addiction] Society, public prosecutors hold talks with drug-dependent or drug-menaced individuals. These talks are intended to prompt them to accept drug-deconditioning treatment. Persons not attending schools and holding no jobs are helped by the public prosecutors' offices to obtain a suitable occupation. In some cases this approach has proved effective.

On the other hand, the initiative of establishing an association of parents of drug-dependent and drug-abusing children has not produced the expected

effects. Only a handful of persons had joined. The principal reason was the desire to avoid public embarrassment over family dramas.

A proposal to prohibit poppy growing is being widely discussed. Opinions on this subject are extremely divided, ranging from the extreme of total prohibition to partial solutions relating to particular cities and counties. Neither alternative seems effective. As real life shows, prohibitions do not work (remember the Decree on Combatting Alcoholism). Recently, unusually menacing drugs that can be found... in the forest have become known. Does that mean that people should be forbidden access to forests?

Let us not delude ourselves. Although it undoubtedly affects dramatically the lives of many people, drug abuse cannot be combatted or eliminated by prohibitions alone, or by laws which are known in advance to be unrealistic. Would not it be better to peruse more attentively and in greater detail the Decree on Combatting Drug Abuse and consider whether it is actually being enforced, and whether all the possibilities afforded by this decree are being exploited?

1386

CS0:2600/584

HIGH RURAL BIRTH RATE, CHANGING RURAL ATTITUDES EXAMINED

Warsaw POLITYKA in Polish No 17, 25 Apr 87 p 6

[Article by Prof Dr hab Barbara Tryfan, rural sociologist, affiliated with the Institute for Rural and Agricultural Development, Polish Academy of Sciences: "Being a Mother"]

[Text] A collection of memoirs of rural women entitled "To Be a Mother" has been published by the Popular Publishing Cooperative (LSW). It contains the results of a competition sponsored in 1979 by the editors of the GROMADA ROLNIK POLSKI newspaper, the Central Union of Agrarian Circles, and the Institute for Rural and Agricultural Development of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The 1,5000 contest entries and Dyzma Galaj's comprehensive introduction portray changes in the peasant family. As the author of the introduction says, this is 100 years of history showing all the major moments in life, such as wedding ceremonies and celebrations, pregnancy, birth, successes and problems, dramas and joys.

Only two of the 25 women authors of the published texts, had two children. All the other mothers had several children, raising four, five, six, or even eight children. Is it that distress and sacrifice should always been the attributes of motherhood for Polish women, or is it that as a society we are interested in just such a model of child-bearing as that provided by reading the memoirs, or is it that in our fascination for western civilization we do not know how to see that in this very sphere of life completely different models predominate?

The traditional peasant family usually had great progeny. The literature and journalism for at least several decades has utilized this fact as the subject of its investigations and inquiries, seeing the main cause to be women's adversity to lie with the excessive burdens of motherly duties. In the 1930's, Boy-Zelenski with earnest passion presented the picture of the distress and misfortune of a woman for whom childbirth had become a primary physiological function, like sleeping or eating. We also read about this distress in the contemporary memoirs: "I decided to take my life. I went to the shed and decided to hang myself. I draped the rope, but when I put it on my neck, my child moved so urgently within me that it probably wanted to jump. The rope flew out of my hands, and I went back to the house." (page 42).

When the family was a production work force, its material existence depended not only on the size of the farm it owned but also on the number of hands to do the work. The dynamic reproductive rate of the rural population, which tried to find justification in the need for hands to do the work, caused the farm structure to become incessantly worse, a farm being divided again and again with each new generation.

Infant mortality, particularly in families with many children, caused by poor sanitation, the lack of medical care, and poor nutrition, did tend to serve as a way of controlling an increase in population.

"When the frozen clumps of earth fell on the little casket, I thought that my heart would cleave to it with the full force of motherly feeling and would be covered over along with my son." (page 228).

Pregnancy and births, children's diseases and deaths, efforts to feed them, and the problems of raising them, as Boy-Zelenski put it, were the "sales tax" that country women paid each day, a tax which had no exemptions or extensions, a tax that limited the horizon of thought and turned the incessant fear of another pregnancy into a psychosis.

"Sometimes I thought about the worst thing...Sometimes I went through the first 3 months of pregnancy without saying anything, until he noticed. Only then did he begin his excuses, saying that I needed it. He was not delighted. He looked at each successive child as though it were a robber." (page 416)

In the first decade after the end of World War II, alongside the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, Poland held one of the first places in Europe in terms of population increases. This was related to the need to make up for the nation's biological losses resulting from the war. The state's probirth policy helped to encourage childbearing during this period, and the indexes for town and country were identical. During the next few years two tendencies appeared. First there was a decline in the birth rate for both town and country. Second, differences appeared between them.

Birth Rate per Thousand Population

Year	1950	1960	1970	1980
Town	19.1	12.9	7.0	9.2
Country	19.1	16.9	10.2	11.3

The differences maintained between town and country stem from the features of rural family life. The factors contributing to the rural family's procreation functions include a lack of knowledge about physiological processes, helplessness against the laws of nature, shame over bringing up the subject, the pressure of factors involving world views that call for restraint or uncontrolled birth, the culture of sexual intercourse, lack of availability of contraceptives, inadequate medical care, and the placing of family planning responsibilities on women. All these issues are discussed in the memoirs.

"After the birth of my fifth child, I went to Gniw, to a well-known physician, a prominent gynecologist, for advice on what to do so that there

would not be any more children. He examined me, looked up over his glasses, and said sharply: 'You are young and as strong as a horse. You can have five more.' And nothing else. Well, and obviously that is all I was created for, to work hard and bear children." (page 229).

It was 100 years ago, in the 1860's that the famous philosopher John Stuart Mill said that you could not expect progress in morality so long as so many families were stigmatized by scorn as great as for drunkenness.

Despite the use of legal, economic, and political instruments in many countries, the population increase in the world is geometric, which means doubling the number of inhabitants of our planet every 30 years. UNESCO forecasts predict that given the same demographic rate, there will be 1 square meter of area per person on earth by the 26th Century. Population growth is not distributed equally from one region to another. As an illustration, we could take the example of three countries of approximately the same size: Finland, Poland, and Vietnam. Since the end of World War II, the population of Finland has remained at about the same level, never exceeding 5 million. Poland's population has increased to nearly 38 million (that is, by about 14 million over a period of 40 years). The population of Vietnam reached 60 million (12 million of this having been achieved during the past 12 years). Even without taking into account the impact of other factors, such as the war and foreign occupation, the stage of economic development, the level of the country's industrialization, and soil conditions, these demographic processes would be a sufficiently important element in determining the population's standard of living.

One of the dilemmas of modern life is the growing imbalance between productive and nonproductive population. As the human lifespan is extended, the population is ageing, and the number of people beyond employment age is becoming larger. On the other hand, as the period of schooling and study is becoming longer, the group of people of pre-employment age is also becoming larger. In the rural areas, owing to the higher birth rate and the migration to the city, these processes are more severe. This places in a new light the problem of burdening the actively employed on behalf of the population that is not employed. Demands to increase family allowances or to increase retirement benefits therefore take the form of a conflict of interest.

On behalf of making town and country living conditions equal, since 1986 rural women have been entitled to mother's benefits, but are they equivalent to the right to mother's leave, which is to be given by the employer, the husband?

"In the morning I felt that I would give birth...I asked my husband to take me to the maternity hospital...But my husband refused, saying that I had had two at home and would the third one too. He had no intention of taking care of the children and the house while I was gone...So I took the children to the neighbors, and I myself walked the 3 kilometers...After 8 days my husband took me home, saying: 'Get to work, because you have been lying around long enough.'" (page 366).

The situation of women doomed to give birth against their will did not undergo drastic change as the result of the improvement in rural economic conditions,

the development of public health facilities, or allowing abortions, but rural attitudes towards procreation did change. The saying: "God provided the children and will provide for the children" is being replaced by rational attitudes. It is true that in previous generations too rural women tried to protect themselves from having too many children, but it was rare to prevent the consequences of sexual intercourse, although it was more frequent to eliminate the consequences through the use of the most primitive methods. These "gynecological procedures" using umbrella wires and such were mentioned in court reports and death records for women.

The tendency to limit the number of children in peasant families is becoming more common. One of the aspects of this tendency is the attempt at fertility analysis during the first 5 years of married life and the comparison of the wedding date with that of the birth of the first child. Such an attempt was made at the Institute of Rural and Agricultural Development (IRWiR PAN). In the generation of oldest women, during the first 5 years of marriage the overwhelming majority managed to bear at least three children, some bearing even six. Among the younger generation, most had only two children. As the IRWiR PAN research shows, 31 percent of young women did not have a child during the first year of marriage, which shows the inculcation of knowledge about family planning, but, on the other hand, 35 percent of all women had their first child before the end of the first 9 months of marriage. These "pseudopremature babies" show that moral norms have changed and that the perfectionistic requirement of not engaging in premarital intercourse has ceased to operate. More and more often rural women are facing difficult choices.

"I felt guilty at having created a child, without being able to raise it, and at their complaining about how I...often asked myself the question whether you could compare a mother's heart to a pancake or a crust of bread, in that the more children there were, the less there was for each one." (page 415).

Reading the memoirs permits us to say that being a mother today does not mean merely to give birth and suffer, but also to decide and plan, so that each child born into the world is a source of joy to the family and wealth to the society.

10790
CSO: 2600/620

PRE-SCHOOL, SPECIAL CHILDRENS' HOMES NUMBERED

Warsaw ZYCIE GOSPODARCZE in Polish No 15, 12 Apr 87 p 11

[Article by (H.S): "Child Care in Figures"]

[Text] People keep saying that there is a shortage of preschools and other child and youth care institutions. How many of them actually exist?

At the end of last year there operated in this country nearly 12,500 preschools (of which 5,800 rural preschools) and 13,500 preschool departments of elementary schools. Their enrollment totaled 1,400,000 children (of whom 443,000 rural children).

A total of 10,500 preschools is administered by the educational authorities, and only 1,800 are attached to plants and factories. About 15 are operated by the TPD [Friends of the Child Society], while others are operated by social organizations and housing cooperatives. Three preschools are operated by convents, and 32 by private individuals. In addition, there are 133 special preschools for blind, deaf, chronically ill, and mentally retarded children. The preschoolers are taught by 80,000 full-time and 6,500 part-time teachers.

Contrary to appearances, not all children are enrolled in preschools because their mothers are working. A total of 188,000 preschoolers are children of non-working mothers.

During the 1985/1986 preschool years an additional 287 new preschools was opened, including 94 rural preschools. A total of 166 preschools was built, 46 were opened in buildings or premises transferred from other educational institutions, and 75 in buildings or premises transferred from other institutions.

It is not only preschoolers who need care. In Poland there exist 458 child care homes, including 161 so-called foster homes. They house nearly 17,000 children of whom barely 814 are orphans.

In addition, there are special educational centers and state-administered youth institutions for the blind and visually impaired, for the deaf and hearing-impaired, for the chronically ill, for the mobility-impaired, for the mentally retarded, and for the socially maladjusted. There exist 474 such

institutions, with an enrollment of approximately 35,000 children. The largest number, 389, is that of the institutions for the mentally retarded.

Another type of child-care institution is the emergency child-care shelters. In 1986 52 such centers, with vacancies for nearly 3,000, operated in Poland and handled nearly 12,000 children.

1386

CSO:2600/584

END

END OF

FICHE

DATE FILMED

August 27, 1987
DS.